DEC '65.

THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY

"JUST ONE WORD OF CONSOLATION" Or by way of explanation ...!!

Ralph Harding.

I am sorry, dear friends, if you thought that this was "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY, Part III" when you opened the envelope. This, in fact, is THE CROSBY POST for December. Whether it is the "official" CROSBY POST depends on your particular view-point.

It has been edited, typed and put together in extra-ordinary circumstances and the sequence may interest you. In fact to understand the entire composition of this extraordinary issue, it is essential for you to understand exactly how it was edited and typed. A word of explanation is in order.

AUGUST 65. I received a letter from FRANK MURPHY asking me to be EDITOR and suggesting I take over this aspect of THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY. I decline at first and finally accept,conditionally accept. I assume entire responsibility for producing (as Editor) CROSBY POST for DECEMBER.
I then type Pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

SEPTEMBER 10th. The September issue of CROSBY POST was issued to all members by FRANK MURPHY who stated quite irrevocably that he had discontinued all connection with the B.C.Soc. and that I was to take over as Editor.

SEPTEMBER 25th. A meeting was held at the Co-Presidents house JACK MANNERS. New officers were elected and I proceeded to type pages 2 and 19, 20.

SEPTEMBER 29th. FRANK MURPHY sent a letter to all Officers as follows ...
I have reconsidered my decision to resign as President of the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY etc.
This unorthodox decision (reminding me of the words of that old Benny Goodman hit "First you say you do and then you don't, then you say you will and then you won'T ... you're undecided now, SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO") this volte face resulted in the rest of the POST being printed in a critical vein.
FINALLY, the last page to be typed is this page, number ONE. So that which shall be first was last!
Anyway, again my regrest that this is NOT the Bing discography WHICH I ASSURE YOU ALL WILL BE COMING TO YOU EVENTUALLY. I would like to be able to tell you that FRANK MURPHY has changed his mind again and decided to print the discog on the Club's equipment. However this is not to be! And therefore his high-handed decision has merely deprived you all of this much-needed book for a few months. You will find in the following pages, a full explanation of how this whole thing came about so I will not dwell on it further.
And now, of course, remains the problem ... WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE "BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY" It will become fairly obvious that I will not be your Editor and this issue will be my "swan song" but if some of the improvements are eventually adopted it has been time well spent. This issue has been produced under extremely difficult circumstances. I have been denied the use of the CLUB equipment and amenities and in fact I have stood the entire cost myself although I hope to recover most of this. FRANK MURPHY should, of course, reimburse me with the entire cost of producing the CROSBY POST for December from the Club funds. That will be a matter for his own conscience.
Well, it was pleasant being your Editor for this issue ... although it meant a helluver lot of work I have made it interesting. And if my Editorial was gigantic, my epilogue will be equally short and to the point ...

THANKS FOR HAVING ME, Yours Sincerely, RALPH HARDING.

...oooOOOOOOOOooo...

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

Founded March 1950

Honorary President BING CROSBY
Honorary Vice-Pres LARRY CROSBY

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CROSBY POST, the official magazine of THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY is edited by Ralph Harding and published quarterly on the first day of

MARCH	(deadline for all material 1st.FEBRUARY)
JUNE	(" " " " 1st.MAY)
SEPTEMBER	(" " " " 1st.AUGUST)
DECEMBER	(" " " " 1st.NOVEMBER)

Contributors please note that ALL material for publication should be sent DIRECT TO THE EDITOR not later than the material deadline for the next issue. Material arriving later may be published in the current issue but in any case will be published in the following issue.

An X here _____ signifies that your renewal subscription is now due. Please forward direct to JACK MANNERS making your cheque or P.O. or M.O. payable to THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY. See back page for all rates.

CROSBY POST - DECEMBER ISSUE 1965

16th. YEAR

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY YOUR EDITOR .... Ralph Harding.

Immediately after Frank Murphy made it perfectly clear by publication in the last CROSBY POST and by subsequent letters to various Officers and members, that he had given up Editorship and Presidency of THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY, despite my reluctance to accept the post of Editor due to many existing committments, I made an attempt to produce a CROSBY POST for the December 1965 edition. I felt that all members had a RIGHT to expect a publication. Therefore several stencils were prepared and cut well before FRANK MURPHY decided that (to quote his own words)

"I have decided to resume as Co-President with Jack and that is that so far as you or any one else is concerned - no-one can question my right to do so!"

This may help to explain the peculiar make-up of this issue. Also several of the contributors freely expressed their doubt as to whether Frank Murphy would publish their articles and comments. It is no secret that Frank Murphy, in the past, has refused to publish articles that he didn't agree with personally.

It was therefore decided that it was definitely in the interests of all members that this issue should be published.

THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN PRODUCED ENTIRELY AT THE EXPENSE OF RALPH HARDING AND I ASSURE YOU THAT NONE OF THE FUNDS OF THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY HAVE BEEN USED IN ANY WAY. However I hope to recover some of the considerable expense involved from the small profits that the discography THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY Part III may bring.

There is absolutely no obligation to contribute towards the cost of this issue but if you feel that your sympathies lie with us and you have the interest of the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY at heart, would you contribute some small payment towards the publication cost of this issue. All contributions, however small, can be sent to me ... RALPH HARDING, 6, Castledine Road, Anerley, LONDON, S.E.20.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

EDITORIAL

CROSBY POST

Ralph S. Harding
"Crosbyana"
6, Castledine Road,
Anerley, LONDON, S.E.20.

Dear Members, Friends and Bing Enthusiasts,

This is my very first Editorial for the New CROSBY POST. The first thing I want to say is that this will be the longest editorial I shall write and I promise you all that future editorials will be a darn sight shorter than this one is going to be ...!!

The second point I would like to make is to wish Frank Murphy all the best of luck in his new project. I sincerely hope that The International Crosby Circle with its magazine "BING" proves to be a most successful vehicle for promoting interest in the greatest singing personality of all time, the one and only BING CROSBY. So on behalf of the members of CROSBY POST, I wish you all the luck in the world .... and that goes for me too.
Because, Frank, my old friend you are going to need it. With the help of the members and the Club Officers, I hope to produce a CROSBY POST magazine (the official organ of THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY) that will reach even greater heights than before.

I feel that with the co-operation of all concerned, I can produce a magazine that we can all take pride in ... so Frank, you're going to have some competition.

I think I, as present Editor, should put all members in the picture how this change came about. You all know me as a member of the team producing the ROAD TO BING CROSBY series of discographies. Naturally this work takes up practically all of my spare time and the remainder is spent in my hobby of collecting Crosbyana. So it came as a bit of a surprise (to say the least) when out of the blue Frank Murphy asked me to become the Editor as he was relinquishing this position of premier club officer.
My immediate answer to Frank Murphy was as follows (and I quote word for word exactly as I replied) ...
"Now to the important part of your letter, in which you ask me if I would be interested in accepting the post as Editor of CROSBY POST. First of all I would like to say that I am sorry that you are definitely giving up the Editorship (I would be the first to admit that you have made a great success of a difficult task) and secondly I wish you the very best of luck in your new club THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE. I see from your letter that you are offering me the post of Editor but if I am not interested, you will be advertising the position in the next issue of CROSBY POST. So presumably I have the first choice ... either yes, or no! Well I am very flattered and truly appreciate your motives and thank you for offering me this position. But in fairness to you and the SOCIETY and all club officers and members I must make my position and thoughts very clear on this matter so that there can be no misunderstanding. You (and many others) may not agree with my ideas but I want to emphasise that they are my ideas and thoughts on the matter. I have always been critical of the method of choice of Club Officers and I still am. I have expressed these criticisms before altho' I would never personally make an issue of it. In my honest opinion, Club Officers should be chosen by ballot in a democratic manner ... not just the Editor, but all Club Officers. The fact that FRED REYNOLDS may be the best man (as indeed he is) for Tape Crosby or that LES PHYTHIAN is the best man (again, indeed he is) for reviewing films doesn't mean that they should be appointed by the Editor or President or anyone else, Likewise to me, it is quite wrong that you should offer me the Editorship and presumably the Presidency out of hand merely because you think I am the best man for the job.

The way I see it is that I should be nominated and all posts should be nominated for the job and I should be seconded by a Club Officer and all other nominations should be received and also seconded by a Club Officer ... and a ballot held among ALL members. A Club Officer should be free to nominate just one person for Editorship or any other post but could be nominated and seconded himself by others. This way, the person chosen would be chosen by popular consent and not by the President or an individual who could express his favours in this manner. These are my principles and I adhere to them. Although I agree (in the main) with the posts held by current Club Officers, I deplore the way in which they were given out.

Secondly as Editor and presumably Co-President (a ludicrous title!) I would affect many changes, particularly in policy. I would be prepared to print anything any article, any severe criticism or praise of BING in any shape or form so long as it was good material, not objectionable to read and not completely perverse. I would deny no-one the right to print his or her opinion even tho' I might disagree with it myself. On the contrary I would endeavour to print articles of great controversy which would result in further articles expressing individual opinions. All, in my opinion, good journalistic practice. I, as Editor, would express no personal opinion to the detriment of any contributor. Likewise I would NEVER allow by myself or anyone else, the censure of a member of a personal nature altho' I would encourage argument, controversy or disagreement with other ideas expressed within the scope of such articles.

My Club Officers would be chosen by what they contribute to the Society and to the POST ... not because they are 'nice' people or because they have big collections. If the Publicity Officer for little Throgmorton didn't send in a regular contribution to the POST or expend a bit of effort on publicity and publish same, then he would soon be replaced. All Club Officers should be expected to come up with a literary contribution regularly. I personally would discard the post of PRESIDENT ... the title would be changed to Editor. I would appoint or personally publish an audited statement of accounts. Let the members see where their gifts and subscriptions go and what happens to their donations. Have an inventory of Club equipment and a current valuation accounting for depreciation. Keep a stock record of paper, stencils, ink etc. and finally keep the whole thing on a sound financial basis so that members can see for themselves EXACTLY how the money comes in and where it goes and how it is all spent.

From what you have just read, Frank, you may be changing your mind rapidly as to my suitability as Editor ... but joking aside, a more important factor emerges. I could not be EDITOR of the POST and carry out my present duties as a discographer. It would be too much for any one person. Our team of discographers is a very happy team and the work is divided unequally by mutual consent. I carry the lion's share of the production by consent of the other team members and mainly because it is more convenient for me to do so, having certain geographical amenities. I do the final typing of all the stencils as I work in co-operation with you and it is obviously easier for me to collate, bind, post and generally distribute etc. Likewise it is easier for me to collaborate with other London bound collectors than say Fred who lives in the Midlands. My duties could be done by other team members but no so conveniently. I have expressed my feelings more than once to other team members that I am dedicated to producing and completing this discography. In fact it has become an obsession with me, a personal thing, that we ... as a team ... get this project (so near to my heart) quite completed, and therefore if I accept your offer of EDITOR of the POST, I will have to curtail my activities to becoming a mere checker of the material etc, a rather passive role. I even doubt if I could find time to collaborate with Geoff Milne and others and in time my collecting activities would suffer. I'm sure that the rest of the team would have no objection to my accepting Editorship but nevertheless I feel sure, in fact I am certain that my activities, general work and interest in my

present role would be missed. On balance I think that altho' I am sure I could make a good job of Editor, I think the work I am doing is of far greater importance. In any case I suggest that the post is advertised ... most emphatically .. but I shall seek the opinion of the rest of the team first and I feel the general opinion will be that the part I play in producing the discography is of greater importance to us all than the post of Editor. In any case, even if I were nominated by general consent, and elected by general ballot, I still would not accept without the full permission of the rest of the team, under our mutual agree-ment to undertake NO other work outside our present project (excepting general contributions to the POST, correspondance and minor work of other record interest.

I have a car and am in easy reach of JACK MANNERS ... I am prepared to assist him to the full as an assistant Editor (assuming that Jack was so elected) ... I'm sorry but I feel I MUST emphasise my feelings on this matter of electing Officers ... as long as it didn't affect my discographical work unduly and it met with the unanimous approval of the rest of the team.

I hope you understand my feelings about all this and I also hope that you don't take personal affront or offence at any of my ideas on this matter. Believe me, I have ALWAYS had the betterment of the CROSBY SOCIETY at heart.

Very best wishes to you ... All the best, sincerely, Ralph Harding.

Well that was my reply to Frank Murphy after he had offered me the post of Editor. You may think I was highly critical ... I have made no bones about the way KEN McMANUS was treated in the previous Post ... I have expressed criticism over the fact that Frank has refused to print articles that criticised BING (these articles received from well-informed experts on Bing and Crosbyana in the States were firmly rejected because they tended to criticise the present singing of Bing and his current shows) and in other ways I have been critical of several other Society aspects. I'm afraid I find the "fan club" attitude rather embarrassing especially when it tends to imitate the out-pourings often seen in a National Musical (so-called) newspaper in relation to the Beatles or the Rolling Stones.

So it came as an even greater surprise when Frank freely admitted that my criticisms and remarks were true, that he had no idea I felt so strongly about these matters and conceded that he agreed entirely with my remarks. This, of course, is all to the credit of Frank in freely admitting that his handling of the Society was far from perfect. I hastened to re-assure him that under the difficult circumstances he did a remarkable job ... in brief I replied: "Let me assure you that my criticisms of the "management" were not aimed solely at you. You say that I paint a very black picture but you also say that you are compelled to agree that all I say is true. Well Frank, old mate (and I assure you that I do regard you with great esteem and as a friend) my criticisms were my own personal opinion and meant to be friendly criticisms and not a personal slur on your integrity. In fact, to be blunt, I was aiming at what I would like to see ... but not what I could expect to see. Your job of running the Club and Editing the POST is a very unenviable one. You will get few people to volunteer. To be honest, you have done an excellent job over the years. It is easy for me to sit back and criticise or make idealistic suggestions, but to be an Editor of our magazine or to run the Club, you have to be a dedicated man and it would be easy for a chap like you to turn round and say "O.K. Chum! You run it better .. It's all yours ...!! Believe me Frank, I and my team-mates would be the first to agree that you are doing and have done in the past, a thankless job for which you get little thanks, no profit ... and of course it is always expected of you. The fact that you took my criticisms in the way you did is further proof that you agree with my ideal of what we would all like to reach ..... etc.etc.

And, notwithstanding my reluctance to accept the post of Editor, Frank Murphy strongly urged me to accept and I decided to do so conditionally. I offered to edit and produce the next two issues of the POST (December and March 1966) thus giving you, the members, to dispose of me or elect an Editor you may prefer. Rather than let the whole Society and the POST fold up, I am quite prepared to try to keep things ticking over for the next two issues.

I may be prepared to carry on the post of Editor indefinitely, depending entirely on the co-operation I receive from the Club Officers and the members. I can't produce a magazine composed of articles and news snippets from my own pen (or typewriter) and I need ... nay, I expect ... articles from members to make this magazine something worth while. So it is up to you all ... please send me your comments, your articles, letters, news snippets, anything you may think is interesting appertaining to Bing and I'll print it.
Let us all look forward to an even better CROSBY SOCIETY And certainly a well-produced magazine.

Sincerely, your Editor ... RALPH HARDING.

And now, for members who may not be entirely familiar with my association with the British Bing Crosby Society, may I introduce myself.

Frank claimed to be the oldest serving member of the Society and his connection with the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY goes back to 1950. I have never been an Officer of the Club before, although Frank has offered me a post on occasions. I have never before accepted because I prefer to remain an ordinary member. I claim however to be one of the oldest, if not the only surviving member of the CROSBY SOCIETY and I first joined way back in the days when the whole idea was founded by ART ALLEN and DOT HARDIMAN, when we had such stalwarts as CAB SMITH (whatever happened to CAB ...?) and in fact I helped GEOFF MILNE and REG DAVIS to edit and produce the first Crosby Magazine called "CROSBYANA" ... back in 1947, 1948, 49. Other veteran members were LES PHYTHIAN, LES GAYLOR to name a few. In fact I can remember FRANK joining the band of followers. I resigned from the Society in the early 1950's because I disagreed entirely with the way the Society was going and the way the magazine was produced. I re-joined about three years ago when Frank showed me that the Society was running satisfactorily. I have been collecting Bing and early jazz for over 33 years. In case I give the impression that I am a wizened old reprobate suffering from senile decay ... let me assure you that I am. I possess a collection of approximately 10,000 rare and fairly rare jazz records. With all modesty I am considered to have an authoritive knowledge of all jazz up to the middle forties. As a side-line I collect Bing and about three years ago completed a collection of every record that Bing has made commercially on master pressing and about 99% a MINT collection. I can say without fear of contradiction that I have possessed six copies of "Face Music Medley" at least eight copies of "Susianna" have passed through my hands on at least five different labels and I am probably one of the few Bing collectors to build up two complete separate collections. I mention this merely to assure you that I am devoted to the work of BING CROSBY ... a man and performer who in my humble opinion is without equal in the history of recording. I am married to Diana, have two swingin' chicks aged nine and three and live in a pleasant house called "Crosbyana" because we couldn't think of a better name. I have never met Bing and yet can claim to have met and spent considerable time with some of the greatest jazz musicians ever such as Louis, Jack Teagarden, Albert Nicholas (my daughter's god-father) Earl Hines, Wild Bill, Condon, Wettling, Lionel Hampton et al. I used to play a lousy trumpet and regard myself as a frustrated (but happy) musician. I work as a Finance officer, smoke like a chimney, live hard and have been described as Rabelaisian (I wish I knew what that meant but if it means lecherous, that's dead right!)
You had all better start looking for a new Editor .....!!!!!

I'VE GOT THE 'I'VE GOT THE GAL'

by RALPH S.HARDING

It all started about 18 months ago so before I relate the curious story that amplified itself into a 24 hour wonder for the Scottish papers, Scottish B.B.C. TV and the Home Service (steam radio) let us (as they say in American cop movies) get the facts straight man, let's have the facts.

Over the past 10 years or more I have endeavoured to build up two complete Bing Crosby collections of commercially issued material. Most people would be content to build just one for themselves ... but I tried to do things the hard way ... my own collection and that of Frank Grant, an old friend and Crosby enthusiast of many years standing at bars. And so this was eventually accomplished. As I got a copy of say "Susianna" on Italian Odeon O-10094 for Frank, so I got eventually a copy for myself, when I got "Face The Music" for myself then so I plugged away until Frank had a copy. Most Bing collectors would regard as a fair achievement the collection of a complete commercial set (i.e. everything that Bing has recorded on records normally issued) but to achieve this twice is a little out of the ordinary to say the least. Up to about two years ago, one recording eluded me, namely "I Got The Girl" and then I found (or rather tracked down) my first copy on English Columbia, followed shortly by my second copy and about a year ago I got the American Columbia in mint condition and finally two copies of the privately issued dubbed version on LP. And so Frank Grant and myself sat back with smug grins on our faces both having completed our Bing Crosby record collections.

It all started 18 months after the event when I spent my annual holiday with the Grants at Stra'ven in Lanarkshire which I have been doing with or without my wife for many years (and on this occasion without unfortunately due to the fact that the House Of Commons was very late in recessing ...which is another story with no Bing connections ...!) It all started at breakfast when the Scottish Daily papers greeted us with headlines (not very big but it made the front page) as follows ...

SCOTTISH DAILY MAIL

IT'S A RECORD FOR BING
(by Daily Mail staff Reporter)

Britain's No.1. Bing Crosby fan-hotelier Frank Grant-has achieved his life long ambition to own a complete Bing Crosby record collection. At his home in Strathaven, Lanarkshire, 45 year old Mr.Grant said .....
and so on ad nauseum for two 3 inch columns, giving about 50% of the facts correctly

AT LAST! FRANK HAS ALL BING'S OLD RECORDS

(Express Staff Reporter)

Like a priceless art collection by an old master-minus just one painting. Or the crown jewels of an ancient Eastern Queen-lacking only one gem. That was the record collection of Frank Grant, hotel manager at Strathaven .....
and so on blah, blah, for 12 column inches complete with a passport or prison photograph.

AT LAST! HE HAS THE FIRST BING RECORD
(Daily Record)

Bing Crosby record collector Frank Grant has recently aquired a glossy black copy recorded at 78 r.p.m. of a number called "I Got The Gal" & his ambition has become a reality.

etc.etc.etc.
rhubarb, rhubarb.

This didn't exactly put me off my breakfast (nothing could do that!) and in any case the shock was delayed because I always make a point of reading first the cartoon strips ... "Garth" "James Bond" and Jeff Hawke" ... in that order. The morning brought umpteen phone calls including those from the TV studios in Glasgow. Frank and I were whisked into the TV studios by a limousine all laid on (a mere 25 miles away but who worried ... we weren't paying!) and eventually

we came face to face with the producer and interviewer of a daily TV programme called "A QUICK LOOK AROUND" who explained that briefly I would give him the facts, he would chat up Frank and also show the record and the whole spot would last about five minutes before he went on to other matters. Well after a quick rehearsal run through, we all returned to a palatial lounge and partook of the healing waters of Scotland named after one of its illustrious sons, one John Walker. Unfortunately, being a mere Sassanach, I didn't realise that singles or doubles relate only to tennis in Scotland and I was handed a third of a pint glass full to the brim leaving no room for soda (apparently in Scotland, the only thing you ever add to whisky is more whisky!) The whole process was repeated and would have continued ad infinitum when Jamieson Clarke who interviews for "Today" and other Home service features, grabbed Frank and interviewed him in a small studio for a spot on steam radio. Mr.Clarke appeared to be in high spirits and I'm fairly sure that high spirits were inside Mr.Clarke and that went for all of us too. With the radio spot in the can to be sent out from London on the Home Service and including a 60 second recording of the disc that started the whole thing off, we returned once again to the lounge and thence to the TV studio where the programme went out live.

Whether it was the effect of the healing waters or my natural exuberance, I had an almost irresistable urge to shout out"Frank Sinatra forever" in the middle of the TV spot. The whole of the "QUICK LOOK AROUND" programme was devoted to the three "R's" ... records, rabbits and something beginning with R to do with mountaineering. Anyway I found the "rabbits item" the most interesting as the rabbits turned out to be "Bunnies" appearing in a Glaswegian floor show cum night club and they looked just like the Esquire bunnies that made head-lines in the States. Personally I didn't give them a second glance ... I was much too busy with the first!

And that was it ... save for collecting the 15 guinea fee (which will help Frank to buy more Bing records)

And now what ? ... well there's a few hundred hours of non-commercial material to get and who can ever say that he has the whole of Bing's out-put of non-commercial material. And even assuming that it ever was possible to get the lot ... film sound-tracks, publicity shots, all the radio airings and T.V. shows ... what would we switch our activities to, what would we collect ?? Beer mats, cigarette cards, foreign stamps .... Elvis Presley records??
I don't know about you lads but my future is clear .... I'm going to breed Rabbits (the Bunny variety!)

...000000000...

CLIPPINGS, JOTTINGS and QUOTES

by THE EDITOR

Readers and enthusiasts are warmly invited by the Editor to submit their favourites quotes and clippings from Periodicals, Papers and Publications. The shorter, the better so that as many as possible can be printed and as unusual as possible ...

And now the quote to end all quotes ... from MELODY MAKER October 3, 1953.

DID YOU KNOW THAT BING CROSBY ONCE ENTERED A TALENT CONTEST UNDER THE NAME OF CHARLIE SENEVSKY - AND WAS WELL AND TRULY BEATEN BY A YOUNG HOPEFUL VOCALIST DOING AN IMITATION OF BING CROSBY.

(Presumably one of the judges was the late Michael Holiday .... ED)

CLIPPINGS, JOTTINGS and QUOTES by THE EDITOR

(A new feature giving old and new quotes from publications, concerning BING)

NEWS FROM HOLLYWOOD LAST NIGHT. BING CROSBY HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE DOCTORS THAT HE MUST TAKE THINGS EASY.

Bing Crosby, who has been under observation for a kidney ailment, may leave hospital this week-end.

THIS WEEK SAW THE FORMAL RECOGNITION OF BING CROSBY AS THE MOST VALUABLE SINGLE PIECE OF PROPERTY IN FILM, RADIO AND MUSICAL HISTORY. HIS GROSS INCOME HAS PILED UP TO NEARLY A MILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS YEARLY.

A Man named Crosby threatens to draw more than golf enthusiasts to St.Andrews this year. His name is BING, he has filed an entry for the British Amateur Championship in May - and one of his side-lines is singing!

SAYS SINGER BING CROSBY OF REPORTS OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM SHOW BUSINESS; "LET'S SAY I'M NOT GOING TO RETIRE QUITE AS MUCH AS WINSTON CHURCHILL BUT MORE THAN BETTY HUTTON.

Bing Crosby made his TV debut in a 12 hour radio marathon designed to raise funds to send 333 American athletes to the Olympic Games.

THE START OF BING. TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO ON APRIL 29, 1927, A YOUNG VOCALIST MADE HIS FIRST RECORDING WITH PAUL WHITEMAN'S ORCHESTRA. THE SONG WAS CALLED "SIDE BY SIDE" AND THE SINGER WAS BING CROSBY. (How wrong can you get ..!! first recording with Whiteman was "Wistful And Blue" 22nd Dec.26 - Editor)

BING CROSBY DISLIKES LARGE DINNER PARTIES AND CROWDS AND FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN A LARGE FOLLOWING IS WATCHING HIM PLAY GOLF.

Bing Crosby failed to appear as a witness yesterday in a trial at San Francisco. The Judge said Mr.Crosby's time was no more valuable to him than the time of the other witnesses. And an order for his arrest will be ready if he fails to show up today.

SUNDAY CHRONICLE Feb. 1st. 1953. NOTHING LEFT TO SPUR ON THE LONELY BING. I BELIEVE THAT BING CROSBY WILL SOON RETIRE FROM THE SCREEN. I GIVE HIM TWO MORE PICTURES THEN FINISH. (That prophet is without honour in any country - Editor)

Following the release here on Decca of the Bing Crosby disc "Is Christmas Only A Tree?" it is revealed that the writers of the song are two nuns that used the pseudonym Mark Lebec. Royalties will go towards building a convent.

WEARING ON HIS BLUE BLAZER THE BADGE OF THE ROYAL GOLF CLUB OF BELGIUM OF WHICH HE IS AN HON. MEMBER, BING CROSBY LANDED AT PLYMOUTH FROM NEW YORK TODAY IN THE FRENCH LINER LIBERTE.

Bing Crosby and Kitty Kallen have recorded some duets for Decca (News to me - ED)

ONE OF BING'S NEW PROJECTS IS A VILLAGE FOR TRAILERS AND CARAVANS NEAR THE SEA-SHORE AT SANTA MONICA, WITH TWO SWIMMING POOLS, A CLUB HOUSE, A NINE HOLE GOLF LINKS AND A SHOPPING CENTER, ALL COSTING OVER $3 MILLION.

An automobile accident in which Bing Crosby was involved just over a year ago has now been settled to the tune of $100,000 in a Los Angeles courtroom. That is the amount awarded to three people when Bing's $17,000 Mercedes-Benz crashed into a saloon car at Sepulveda Boulevard at 5.30 A.M. on October 11th. 1953.

I'M GONNA SIT RIGHT DOWN AND WRITE MYSELF A LETTER .... By THE EDITOR

This presents an entirely new feature ... YOUR letters to the EDITOR and I will print either the entire letter or suitable and interesting extracts with my answer or a suitable comment (and I warn you, the comment may be acid or pseudo witty, I may agree with you entirely or attempt to shoot you down in flames). Likewise I'll print bouquets and brickbats aimed in my direction. This will be your forum ... say what you like as long as you keep it clean (well not too clean, anyway!) Just a word of warning ... I'm going to print your letters JUST as you send them. If you make bad spelling mistakes or grammatical errors, then that's how it will appear with a row of asterisks for anything about me unprintable. Each issue, I'll pick the STAR letter which I will indicate by a column of "stars" ... and I'll send a P.O. to the writer for five bob. Keep your letters short, witty, controversial and of interest to all. If you have a beef, let it go man! If you want to praise me to the skies, who am I to object and I'll print it. Let's face it members, I'm the extrovert to end 'em all. Here goes then ....

FROM Miss E.M.Newley, 49, Ord Street, Gateshead, 8. (Sept 6th)

Hope you are all well. I've been under Dr for my leg, it's a long standing trouble since 1952. Well for weeks past I looked forward to photo from Hollywood it came last Friday 27th noon post early that Friday I had to go over to Gas Co because my meter had jammed so didn't know till I got back. What a shock and I am disgusted not the kind I expected a wild eyed fiend tight lipped and my name spelt wrong ... etc.etc.

WELL DEAR MISS NEWLEY, I AM TRULY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR LEG AILMENT AND I'M SURE WE ALL HOPE YOU GET BETTER SOON. AND I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE PHOTO OF BING ... I THINK IN ALL MY WIDE EXPERIENCE, I HAVE NEVER HEARD THE OLD GROANER SO DESCRIBED. PERSONALLY I THINK OLD BING HAS A REAL FRIENDLY PAN ... AND REMEMBER BOGART HAD THE SORT OF FACE THAT ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE BUT DIDN'T HE WOW THE FEMALE SEX? AS AN OFFICER (HONEST!) OF THE NORTH THAMES GAS BOARD, I'LL BE SENDING YOU SOME TIPS ON HOW TO UN-JAM YOUR METER.

FROM Bert Morton, Chevin, Dean St. Brewood, Staffs. (8th.Sept)

Thank you for your letter together with the back numbers of the Crosby Post which I am still digesting.

DEAR BERT, YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO EAT THEM. I'LL BE SENDING YOU RENNIES.

FROM JOHN FAHY, 108, Mansfield Road, Sheffield 12, Yorks (14th Sept)

Dear Ralph, I went to "The Olde Bell" (the hotel where Bing was booked in for the St.Leger meeting) the other Monday night, but of course BING wasn't there and the manager was as much in the dark about his plans as I was. I waved my letter from BING which says "hoping to see you in September" under his nose and he seemed to be quite impressed! At first he had thought that I was a rascally reporter. I admire, but don't envy you, in your editorship of the "Post" etc.etc.

Thanks for the letter John. What a pity you missed Bing ... perhaps the "Stagecoach" was late. But why under his (the manager's)nose? Did he want to smell it? And of course if he had known you as well as I, he would have had no doubts about you. I'll be sending you FIVE BOB.

**********STAR LETTER**********

FLASHBACK TO THE FABULOUS FORTIES

(A reprint from TIME Magazine, April 7th. 1941.) Submitted by FRANK HATWELL

Out of the Paramount Studio in Hollywood last week came some of the most uninhibited, daffy nonsense to hit the U.S. screen since the heyday of Harold Lloyd. It was ROAD TO ZANZIBAR, and its principal assets were two recruits from radio who bounced gaily through its inanities like a pair of playful puppies. For one of them, Bob Hope, it was the tenth film in a new and rapidly rising movie career; for the other, Bing Crosby, a dulcet, broken-toned singer who has confounded all the rules of show businessfor more than ten years, it was his 24th feature-length picture.

During his eight solid years with Paramount, Bing has played every type of character from a river romeo (Mississippi) to a rough sketch of himself (Sing You Singers). From the start he has insisted on having important stars around him, while his contemporaries were fighting for single billing. Last year, he teamed with comedian Bob Hope in ROAD TO SINGAPORE, although Hope's ad-libbing prowess was supposed to be worse than death for any other comedian within range. Bing held his ground, and the result was one of the slap-happiest comedies of the season.

ROAD TO ZANZIBAR makes no bones about being a continuation of these antics. This time Crosby and Hope are a footsore carnival combiantion working their way through Africa. Hope, as feerless Frazier, a harassed stooge who has to be shot a cannon or wrestle an octopus, wants to get home to Birch Falls, Iowa. Crosby always interrupts the plan with a new enterprise. Before it is over they take a safari through the jungle with Dorothy Lamour and Una Merkel, almost get eaten by cannibals.

The comedy hauled out of this unremarkable framework is one part radio, one part vaudeville, one part lunacy. The trail of the safari through the jungle is illustrated with an animated map. The voice of a commentator speaks: "Week after week they plod onward with nothing to guide them but the stars by night and the sun by day ... And so our safari is forced to rest - hoping to regain their strength with generous helpings of wart-hog stew."
When a group of savages are arguing in their native tongue, very liberal English translations appear at the bottom of the screen. When Crosby tries to argue Hope into wrestling the octopus, he explains: "I'm trying to make you famous - people will write books about you". Cracks Hope: "Well I know three words that won't be in 'em - 'ripe old age'."
BING-OF-ALL-TRADES. Road To Zanzibar is not 100% movie. That is as it should be for its star is not 100% movie star. He is a law student to turned to singing as a gag, and while making fortunes in cinema, the radio and the phonograph record business, has operated a race-track, a horse farm, had an interest in two prize fighters and a girl's baseball team.

Harry Lillis Crosby, "The Groaner" to his friends is also happily married to a blonde lady who was once an actress. He lives in a sunny, 14-room house with an adjoining tennis court and a swimming pool where he roughhouses in off hours with four shiny, beaming sons. He plays par golf, and possesses an honorary Ph.D. degree.

Casual, talented and loaded with Irish luck, the Crosby career is also notable for making a bum out of Horatio Alger. For in 37 years, Bing Crosby has shed a confusing new light on the problem of how to be a success. He has never studied music or voice or pounded the pavements looking for work; yet jobs keep turning up - each a little better than the last. He always falls uphill. Year after year, he just sings and people pay fortunes to hear him.

Over the radio, Bing's voice is worth $7,500 for one hour's broadcast a week. On records, it sold 3,500,000 discs this year and earned him $77,000. In the movies, it brings him $175,000 a picture for three pictures a year.

As one of seven children of a Spokane, Washington accountant, Bing's earliest leanings were towards having fun. Pleasant and easygoing he like to swim at Mission Park on hot days or whack around the Downriver golf course with his rusty second hand clubs. His vague goal was the law, which he leisurely studied at nearby Gonzaga University. Now and then he picked up some spending money by rattling the drums and singing in the six-piece high school band of his friend Al Rinker.

Once on a vacation trip to Lo Angeles, Bing and Al ran out of money, had to find jobs or head home. They polished up a couple of tunes, landed a job in a local theatre. Al played the piano and Bing stood by, tapping a cymbal while they harmonised on some speedy ditties like "Paddlin' Madeline Home" and "Five Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue". It earned them $65 a week apiece, which bought all the fun they wanted. Just when everything was going smoothly, Paul Whiteman heard them, offered them $150 a week to join his show.

That was Bing's start. From then on he violated the strictest tenets of success. Whiteman let him go because he was lazy, and he immediately landed a better job at Los Angeles' Cocoanut Grove. The Grove fired him for disappearing on long week-ends to Palm Springs and Ague Caliente. Mack Sennett hired him to act in some movie shorts. Prohibition booze gave him laryngitis which muffled his voice to a whisper, and he received a $3,500 a week radio contract. Eddie Lang, his best friend and accompanist, died, and Bing wound up making pictures for Paramount. He seemed listless, but his income always increased.

Bing's future was summarised by coony Hollywood Producer Sol Wurtzel at the time Bing was singing at the Grove. Wurtzel noticed that Singer, Dixie Lee, one of his actresses on the Fox lot, seemed to be spending a lot of time with Bing, so he warned her: "Dixie, you'd better give that fellow up, because if you marry him, you'll have to support him for the rest of your life." She did, and she has not.

Ever since his fight with the Grove in 1931, Bing has let other people run his affairs. They are crack Los Angeles Attorney Jack O'Melveny and his two brothers Everett and Larry. At that time his brother Everett and O'Melveny incorporated him into Bing Crosby Ltd. to keep his hands off his property. Bing is now the major stock-holder in the profitable Del Mar race track, owns a 100 acre breeding ranch near the track, some 75 horses and enough ready cash to pay a $377,000 income tax demand for 1940.

With affluence and a family, Bing's life has slipped into more conservative channels. Nowadays if he isn't working he likes to get out to the track for the early-morning workouts, squeeze in 18 Or 36 holes of golf in the morning, hurry back to the track for the afternoon racing.

Except for an occasional night club outing with Dixie, he spends his evenings at home with the family telling the boys bed-time stories in Crosbyesque slang. One night Little Red Riding Hood finally gets "hep" that the wolf isn't Grandma; the next night Goldilocks makes a "three bowl parlay" on the bear's porridge. Every few months he asks over his old musician friends - Manny Klein Lennie Hayton, Joe Venuti, and whoever happens to be in town - for a jam session in his large rumpus room. Summers, he packs the family off to the ranch near Del Mar.

Although Bing's activities are quieter, his manner isn't. Old friends from Spokane still recognize the happy-go-lucky Crosby approach which is transmitted to radio audiences in the jargon which keeps the Kraft Music Hall one of the peppiest shows on the air. There is no room for the usual tense radio nerves around K.M.H. with the groaner trucking around the studio stage in an old pair of slacks and the tails of his gaudy shirts hanging out, kidding the men in the

control booth or joking with wheel-chaired Connie Boswell.

The show always has an inpromptu atmosphere on the air and has a bad habit of running long, as Bing never holds a full rehearsal. If anything goes wrong, Bing's trigger-quick tongue is a certain safe-guard. Recently, when guest Jackie Cooper dropped his drummer's sticks during an act, Bing filled in with: "Hold the phone, there's been a nasty accident."

For his solos, Bing has one or two rehearsals with the band to get the timing, merely pulls out his pipe and tucks his gum against his teeth when the time comes to go on. Jack Kapp, for whom Bing makes Decca records, recalls that the Groaner's singing is so facile he recorded the complicated "Ballad For Americans" in four hours. The same song took Paul Robeson three weeks.

The gloomy souls that prophesied such a shoddy ending to Bing's career, overlooked the most important Crosby quality. Like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey and Bill Tilden, who thrilled the fans of the '20s, Bing knows how to please the crowd, all ages, all sexes. Journalist Joseph Chamberlain Furnas (- "And Suddenly Death") stated the case with scientific coolness when he wrote: "The prevalent feminine verdict is still that Crosby is definitely cute, whilst the masculine part of the audience seems not to mind him at all - which distributes the positive and negative reactions in exactly the right places."

That Bing's voice is America's favourite depends upon the fact that it not only sounds good, but that Crosby sings every song - whether it is "Mexicali Rose" or "Silent Night, Holy Night" - as though he felt it was the best song ever written. And characteristically the happy-go-lucky Groaner manages to convey the impression that anyone can do the trick. Says he: " A crooner gets his quota of sentimentality with half his natural voice. That's a great saving because I don't like work".

...oooOOOOOOooo...

(Our thanks to Publicity Officer FRANK HATWELL for sending in this interesting article re-printed verbatim from TIME MAGAZINE, April 7th. 1941)

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EXCHANGE & MART (Continued from Page 15)

JACK SOUTHER 2011-44th.Ave, San Francisco, CALIF 94116, USA writes to say ... For the serious Bing collector, I have available for trade or auction many rare commercial and non-commercial items, Movie publicity records, alternate takes, non-commercial pressings, rare and common labels and songs, "V"discs and 16" transcriptions, 8" by 10" movie stills, etc.etc. I require some English alternate takes, a few of the rare sides on English labels in very superior condition and any non-commercial pressings that I don't have. I also collect U.S. and English records of 1930-1936 period (pop tunes, vocals, dance bands, etc.) I have numerous wants ... I will buy, trade, swap or sell for you. I've collected Bing seriously for over 18 years. I will furnish references.

(No need to furnish references Jack ... I can vouch for the honesty, integrity and square dealing of JACK SOUTHER .... Ralph Harding, EDITOR)

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Just a space filler ... Ralph Harding collects old New Orleans, Chicago, New York and K.C. jazz ... Dixieland, blues, hot piano, skiffle, jug bands, get-happy music, stomps, Charlestons and literally anything "hot" between 1915 and 1940. Also certain swing, anything from "Fats" to Django Reinhardt. You'll be amazed at what I will pay for KEITH PROWSE, 7,000 series on GUARDSMAN, ORIOLE ACTUELLE, KILDARE and other items on English labels. Offer me rare American labels with high jazz content and I'll spend like a sailor on shore-leave.

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$ EXCHANGE AND MART $
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A NEW FEATURE - YOUR MARKET PLACE with your EDITOR acting as chief barker.

This feature will appear EVERY issue ... YOU, THE MEMBER OF THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY just tell me what you want, what you need and what you have to sell, swap or dispose. There's NO CHARGE as long as you keep it brief, to the point and it doesn't take up too much space. Longer adverts which list many records in detail taking up much space will be charged for at extremely cheap rates AND MUST BE PREPAID.

FRANK GRANT, "Crown Hotel" STRATHAVEN, SCOTLAND badly needs ... English Brunswick 02054X Adeste Fidelis/Silent Night Holy Night. It MUST be this catalogue number and in MINT condition. In exchange, he will offer a brand new copy of the discog "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY Part I" (which is now very rare PLUS a copy of the above record without the X ... i.e. a copy of Br-E 02054. (which seems to me to be a VERY generous offer ... ED.)

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The following people are screaming out for copies of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY PART I (which is getting as rare as a copy of "Susianna")
David M.Chappell, 32, Adlington Avenue, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
J.P.Carpenter, 160, Wellington Rd.South, Hounslow, Middx.
Fred Tetlow, 30, Cromer Road, Millbrook, Southampton.
Richard T.Jennings, 87, Critchley Rd. Speke, Liverpool, 24.
(and believe me folks, there are many others who need this desirable book. ED)
If any one is interested, JOE HALL, 95, Wilmot Street, London, E.2. and FRANK GRANT, "Crown Hotel" Strathaven, Lanarkshire both have spare copies. JOE HALL will sell or swap (15/- or suitable swap) FRANK GRANT will swap for a record or two on a foreign label he hasn't got (doesn't have to be a rare title) (EDITOR'S COMMENT ... if a few eyebrows raise at the idea of paying 15/- for a copy of Part I, remember that JOE HALL had the foresight to buy up a few copies when they were offered at the beginning ... he, and anyone else with copies of Part I for sale, deserve a profit for their initiative!!)

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RALPH S.HARDING, "Crosbyana", 6, Castledine Rd., Anerley, London, S.E.20 wants the following "V"discs in E condition or better. And will offer from £2.10.0 to £3.10.0 for good clean copies. (More if you twist my arm ...!!)

No.24 You Are My Sunshine/It's a Long Way To Tipperary
28 It Can't Be Wrong
48 Silent Night/Joy To The World/It came upon a Midnight Clear
773 Bing Crosby Fluff from "Lucky Strike Radio Show
780 Country Style 820 I Got My Captain working for me now
893 You Call Everybody darling 685 Sioux City Sue

In some cases, I am prepared to chuck in as good measure, my old, battered, and severely abrased copy PLUS the cash!
Being a "label" collector, I'll offer £10 for each of these in E or better: Ariel Z4364 "Susianna" Okeh 41228 "Susianna" Pa-Australian A2790 "Susianna" Odeon ONY41228 "Susianna" Also Dorsey Bros. £10 each for OK 41188 & 41181 £1 each for the following by Whiteman Victor 21302, 24349, 25675, 36186, 27686, 21431, 27687, 21438. Columbia 1455, 1444, 1496, 1491, 1448, 1505, 1701, 1683, 1819, 1773, 1771, 1877, 1819, 1822, 1845, 1862, 1993,2047, 2161. I've never seen this one, anyone got it? I'll pay £5 for a copy ... English Columbia DC176 Oh Miss Hannah. I'll also pay extremely high prices for re-issues on CONQUEROR, OKEH, BANNER, ORIOLE, PATHE, PERFECT, ROMEO, MELOTONE, VOCALION, LUCKY, SILVERTONE, DIVA, CLARION, VELVETONE etc.etc.etc.

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THAT'S FOR ME

by THE EDITOR.

Congratulations to FRED REYNOLDS for an excellent article on Page 13 of the CROSBY POST (last month's issue SEPTEMBER 1965) entitled "SEPTEMBER SONG" (Album of the Month). I hope that readers didn't miss the clever presentation of highly amusing paragraphs set out similar to the titles of an LP record. "Well Did You Evah?" was of course the gem, but I was particularly interested in "A Flight Of Fancy" in which FRED pointed out the "bloomer" or "howler" caused by the typographical error. Well we all know that typographical errors and the occasional grammatical mistake occur in the best of publishing circles. I have cut a few hundred stencils in my time and I know how easy it is to make a typing mistake. So, with my tongue in my cheek, I checked through this issue of the POST to see if there were many more. And there were a'plenty ...!! One aspect of CROSBY POST that has never endeared itself to me is the numerous spelling and grammatical mistakes but at least they cause me great amusement. This is what I found in the SEPTEMBER issue with suitable comments added .....

PAGE 3. BING MISSES THE ST LEGER - MEADOW COURT 2ND PLACE.
(I presume that Bing was unplaced ...)

PAGE 3. Bing missed the St.Leger when it was reported his was taken ill.
(For heaven sake tell us ... HIS WHAT!!)

PAGE 4. I received an actual letter from Bing which was endorsed on the bottom
(Tattooed with a ball-point, no doubt)

PAGE 4. Our activity has now rattained this great measure of acknowledgement
(Micely said ...!)

PAGE 6. It was Bing's five year old daughted Mary
(undaunted or daft ..??)

PAGE 6. "Bang, Bang, your dead" she yelled.
(actually they turned out to be someone else's dead)

PAGE 6. An old fashioned phonography.
(for playing discography ...??)

PAGE 6. After two or three months away, I atart getting bored.
(the only time I've ever seen a tart getting bored was when I said I'd rather spend the money on a Bing record)

PAGE 6. "It's kid's like her in my family
(whose kid is like her ...?)

PAGE 7. The fans of the other people to were to lazy to write.
(O ... how I miss you tonight ... too)

PAGE 10. Speaking of Angles .... Peggy Lee
(such as acute, right angle or 90% ...?)

PAGE 12. I Got Rhthm ..... Bing/Peggy
(Y ... don't you behave?)

PAGE 12. I would write about today's events whistl they were still fresh in my mind.
(... while you work?)

PAGE 12. he signed both of my albums whiting my name on them
(His pen was filled with hot water and New Daz ...?)

PAGE 12. Wyen I finally left him .... a thoughourly nice guy.
(Hell ... what can you do with this one?)

PAGE 11. Via Con Dios .... Bing
(Easy journey ... L.A. to San Diego vaya Con Dios)

PAGE 15. On newly pressed Bing and Rosies
(between the leaves of a book? ... very painful!)

PAGE 15. THE SPANIARD WHO BLIGHTED BY LIFE on Playtime
(These bull-fighters get all the kicks)

PAGE 15. WELL DID YOU EVAH on at start of delayed test match

PAGE 15. SUNSHINE CAKE on Family Fare
(where else?)
PAGE 18. The junk dealers don't care so they are stacked precariously in the most awkward part of the shop.
(No wonder I can never find a junk dealer when I want one)
PAGE 18. JACK MANNERS WRITES ... Halo there
(I always knew old Jack was a Saint)
PAGE 19. Since then he hast met Bing several times.
(Thou couldst meetest him too, forsooth!)
PAGE 21. American Orchestra leader Ben Slavin
(As Ben Selvin once said, "It doesn't matter what they say so long as they spell your name right!")
PAGE 21. Of For The Wings Of A Dove cut by Ernest Lough
(Yes, off with the wings ... he must have been a clipped-omaniac)
PAGE 24. I must have had at one time the worlds of almost every song.
(Around the word I search for you ....)
PAGE 25. Since joining I have been re-activied in my desire
(I take pep pills too but my wife doesn't think it matters anyway)
PAGE 25. and was a predudiced and inaccurate account
(well something appears to be inaccurate anyway!)
PAGE 26. Hope they will be repeated on BBC I later - most things are.
(I could tell you something that's not!)
PAGE 26. My club members hip is only a few weeks old
(I always say enrol them young!)
PAGE 27. There followed of course a reall Bing session
(after a reall meall of course)
PAGE 27. I first became a fan of Bing's back around 1954
(Personally I like his front but every man to his choice)
PAGE 28. To me Bing has always been the tops - in his prime no-one came near him.
(Amplex hadn't been discovered then!)
PAGE 28. It does give us an opportunity to appreciate all the morem.
(doesn't he mean moron)
PAGE 28. As his album RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS prooves
(especially with the needle in the groves, it mooves you)
PAGE 29. a tendency these days for the young and not so young to live in two different worlds and I can see no earthly reason for it.
(from our Martian correspondant no doubt!)
PAGE 29. already stated by Ninian Faichneyit
(from our Rushian Ninian ... or Russian member?)
PAGE 30. there seems to have been much activity in your parts of late
(Phyllosan for the over forties ... it has the same effect on me)
PAGE 30. why do they spend their days writting so juch gibberish
(a fiting observation from juch binding in the marsh)
PAGE 33. Stop Press. Bing's visit to Irekand
(well there's not many places he hasn't seen.)

Those are just a few of the bloopers picked at random. How about members having a go at this crazy game. I'll give a guinea to the member who comes up with the best typographical or grammatical error in the next issue with suitable comment.
Send your "bloopers" to me, the Editor, Ralph Harding; and a selection will be printed in the next issue of the POST.

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RECORDS FOR SALE OR SWAP The following records are for sale at the prices indicated, or for swap. Early pre 1940 jazz or swing acceptable or what-have-you. All enquiries to Ralph S.Harding, "Crosbyana" 6, Castledine Road, S.E.20.

SALE OF BING CROSBY RECORDS. SALE OF BING CROSBY RECORDS. BING - BING - BING

Conditions shown as follows:- N = As new.E = Excellent.VG=worn.G= Well worn.

1. Galway Bay/My girl's Irish Gl N 4/-
2. McNamaras Band/Dear Donegal N 4/-
3. Quicksilver/Have I told U lt'ly N 4/-
4. Friendly Mounts/Kiss in yr eyes N 4/-
5. If I had my way/Wrap yr troubls E 2/6
6. El Rancho Grde/Poor Old Rover N 4/-
7. Don't fence me In/3 Caballeros E 2/6
8. Meadows of Heavn/See u in my ds E 2/6
9. Busy doin Nothing/Twixt myself N 4/-
10. High on the list/Life So peculr N 4/-
11. You Do/How soon? E 2/6
12. If You please/Sunday,Monday N 3/6
13. Horse told me/Sunshine Cake N 4/-
14. Stardust/I cried for you N 4/-
15. Sweet leilani/Hula Heaven E 3/-
16. Man & his dream/Go fly a Kite E 3/-
17. Only forever/Moon ovr Mad'n Sq E 2/6
18. Wished on moon/Take 2 to make bg E 2/6
19. Bells of St.Marys/Hm agn Kathln E 2/6
20. Baby sez Yes/Socks dont match V 2/-
21. Arent u glad/Land of begin agn E 2/6
22. Swannee River/Easy to remember N 3/6
23. April pld fiddle/I havnt time E 2/6
24. Top of head/Wish I wr Aladdin E 3/-
25. Without wrd warning/2 fr tonite E 3/-
26. Pen from Heavn/Lets call heart V 1/-
27. Little Hula Heavn/Sweet leilani N 3/6
28. Whose drm are U/Been long time E 2/6
29. Mothers Waltz/Would You? E 2/6
30. June in Jan/With evry bth I tak V 1/-
31. Accent the Positive/Fella waitg V 1/-
32. Blue skies/Captain wrking fr me G -/6
33. Old cowhand/Empty saddles V 1/-
34. Sorry/Chattanoogie Shoe shn boy V 1/-
35. Amor Amor/I'll be seeing you E 2/-
36. Blue Hawaii/Sweet is wrd for U N 4/-
37. Only forever/Moon comes over Md E 2/6
38. Silent night/Adeste Fidelis V 1/6
39. Irish lullaby/Let me love U tnt E 2/6
40. Makes no diff now/Im thinkg tontE 2/6
41. Eileen/How can U buy Killarney E 3/-
42. Y'all come/Changing partners E 3/-
43. Soon/Down by the river N 4/-
44. But Beautiful/Golden earrings N 3/6
45. True love/Well did you Evah V 1/-
46. Day by day/Prove it by things U N 4/-
47. Horse told me/Sunshine Cake V 1/-
48. Laroo Lili Bolero/Ballerina N 4/-
49. Laroo Lili Bolero/Ballerina E 2/6

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50. Once In a blue moon/Br-E 1768 E 6/6
Goodnight lovely little lady
51. Luv is just around the corner
Maybe I'm wrong agn Br-E 01952 N 7/6
52. BING CROSBY REVIVALS Please
Brother spare a dime BrE 02473 N 7/6
53. I'm thru with luv/ I found a
Million Dollar Baby BrE 1197 G 1/-
54. Were You sincere/Just One more
chance Br-E 1155 N 5/-
55. Home on Range/Last Rd-up 01608 N 4/-
56. Learn to croon/Moonstruck 1562 E 6/6
57. WHITEMAN My blue Heaven B5366 V 2/6
58. " My Pet/I'm Afraid of you
Victor 21389 NEW.offers
59. GUS ARNHEIM Thanks to you E+ offers
One more time (Rare!)Victor 22700
60. WHITEMAN RHYTHM BOYS Louise/So black
birds & bluebirds Co-E 5457 NEW.offs
61. Gay Luv/Cant we be fr CoE 2035 NEW "
62. May I/Luv thy neighbr CoE 2059 N 4/6
63. You got me crying again/Getting to
be habit with me CoE 1901 N offs.
64. Black moonlight/Street of Dreams
CoE 2085 NEW 8/6
65. Love In bloom/Please CoE 1802 N. 6/-
66. Sing a song of sunbeams/East side
of Heaven Decca(blue)2359 E 3/6
67. Sweetest story ever told/Mighty lak
a rose Decca(black)23482 E 2/6

68. Don't fence me in/Three caballeros (small crack) De-Indian M2018 N 1/6
69. Trade winds/A Song of old Hawaii De(blue) 3299 E 2/6
70. 10" LP El Bingo. Br-E LA8529 (8 titles) very worn 1/- (cheapest LP ever)
71. 10" LP South pacific BrE LA8533 (ditto) " . " 9d. (sorry, even cheaper)

Send no money ... enquire first what you may want. I'll bill you later. If you are the first to enquire and require, you'll get first pick.
Members are invited to submit similar lists of disposals and records wanted etc.
See back page for the cheapest advertising rates charged. Only 1d per record.

****
** "Y'ALL COME .... AND THEY ALL DID .....!! **
** (On-the-spot report of a GREAT BING MEETING at LONDON) **
** by your EDITOR **
****

The Time ... from 2.0.PM. until Heaven knows when (I left around 11.0 PM.) The Place .. Jack Manner's residence at Camberwell (a brick's throw from the old "Crosbyana" menage if you're an Olympic cricket ball champion) and the friends and enthusiasts present ?? Well, I think I counted the best part of 40 people there at one time and I certainly met again Fred Reynolds, Derek Parkes, Geoff Milne, Joe Hall and his brother Charlie, Frank Grant (who was staying with the Ed for a well-needed vacation) Mike Crampton, Eric Griffiths, Harold Hanke, delectable Eileen Walters (one of our younger and certainly prettier members) Ken Milford, Frank Hatwell, Dick Pierson, Les Brice, George Smith, Charlie Tupper, several charming members of the female sex and several other members and enthusiasts ... and of course not forgetting our host Jack Manners and his charming wife Kit. Kit, of course, deserves special mention for the production of unlimited cups of tea. I can say without fear of contradiction that I hold the Manners' household record for tea-swilling. On one occasion I downed no less than 14 cups of the heady brew. This meeting as far as I was concerned was no exception.

The guest of honour was an old pen-pal of mine, a friend of Derek Parkes and for that matter a true Crosby friend of everyone and in particular of Bing himself, John Scott and others ... apart from being a very notable collector of all things Bing and beautiful. I refer of course to Eddie Rice. The first thing that struck me about Eddie was his immense modesty (and from a man who has spent several weeks in Bing's home, cataloguing his, Bing's, collection) and the second thing was his ability to relate to the company present all the details of his meetings with John Scott Trotter and other Crosbyana in a manner most interesting to all. Eddie brought several tapes with him and to say that the material contained thereon was interesting was the understatement of the year. It was quite fabulous and I use the expression in its true sense and not as if I were describing the latest disc by the Stones. Apart from some unissued masters that to most of the company present were completely unknown, many radio shows were played and I know at least one person present that went puce green with envy ... ME! Eddie tells me that there may be a slight chance of serious dedicated collectors obtaining this material if he can get the permission of Bing to release it. I, for one, hope that this may be achieved. One of the interesting items was a lengthy interview with John Scott Trotter and Eddie has promised to let me have extracts for publication in the POST. John Scott had quite an interesting early career, quite apart from the work he did with Bing for many years, so this exclusive series of articles should prove to be of great interest to us all.

Officers and members present at the meeting took the opportunity of discussing in detail and at great length the change of Editor-ship and the position of President and other relevant details due to the various changes in the Society. Certain unanimous decisions were reached to ensure that the BRITISH BING CROSBY SOCIETY would not only remain the foremost Appreciation Society devoted to Bing Crosby, but that membership would grow considerably and the Society's magazine would greatly improve.

P.S. I have just noticed that I failed to mention the attendance of my old chum BOB ROBERTS ... sorry Bob, I know you'd never forgive me and the same applies to LES PHYTHIAN who returned with me and stayed the week-end. Now that was a swinging week-end if there ever was one!

.....oooooOOOOOoooooo.....

SO SWEET CORN TURNS INTO SUCH A SICKLY LOSER by KENNETH EASTAUGH

It's sad, but thousands of folk are prepared to put up with a lower standard of entertainment on television than they will take in the cinema or the theatre simply because TV is handy.

It's a big price to pay. ITV is rolling in lolly - the BBC spends ours. So we should stick out for first-rate showmanship invention, and imagination at all times.

It's dangerous to be otherwise. Once you put up with the second-rate long enough - you are rightly brainwashed for the third-rate. So in matters of comedy I stick out for the belly laugh - one of the finest forms of exercise known to man.

But this old fashioned idea probably has them rolling about the floor in hysterics at the BBC and ITV. If a comedy show vaguely holds your interest you can count yourself on a winner these days - provided you can stop yourself yawning for minutes on end in case you miss the funny line when, or if, it comes.

All of which brings me to the BING CROSBY SHOW on BBC-2. This is a crumm family comedy with sweet corn on every crumb and sickly sentiment on every grain of corn.

And perched on top to really sugar the pill - a big star, namely, Mr.Bing Crosby.

Twenty five minutes of this show is like eating your way through a candy floss factory - the laughter is not so much ho-ho-ho as ugh-ugh-ugh. IT IS that abundant TV thing ... bad family entertainment. IT IS naive, precious and moralising, turned out by the Hollywood machine which pretends to know what the public wants. This machine is twenty years out of date.

IT IS that old show business trick. Get a show with a big name in it and we are supposed to flock around, making big allowances for inane diologue, non-existant acting, and a witless story - grateful beyond our wildest dreams that we have been allowed to see a big star.

IT IS money for ropey old cliches. If this programme aims at popularising BBC-2, then it is a sickly loser so far as I'm concerned.

++++++++++++

The above extract is taken from the DAILY MIRROR, Thursday, September 23rd.65 in the feature "LAST NIGHT'S TV".

Now before you all rise in riteous indignation, let us all consider. I know the writings, criticisms and TV reviews of Mr.Eastaugh well ... I read them in the Daily Mirror. Make no mistake about it, he is a normal, intelligent and VERY readable critic. No doubt he speaks for millions of viewers and usually he speaks well. He may not be a brilliant critic but he is not a bad critic. Now I saw the 25 minute show he flays ... in fact I have seen EVERY one of the 12 shows to date, including this one entitled "The Dominant Male" and remember each one extremely well. I would have no quarrel with Kenneth if he had slayed some of the earlier shows which to me, a dyed-in-the-wool BING enthusiast made "Peyton Place" look like a Mack Sennett two-reeler ... but personally I thought that this particular show was definitely one of the better ones. So it amounts to this ... have you seen all the shows Kenneth? If so, why pick on this one? Do you ever watch "Coronation Street" and clutch your stomach with uncontrolled laughter? ... because I do! I get a great deal of mirth out of "Juke Box Jury", "The Party Political Speeches" and "Cooking with Fanny Craddock" but perhaps these are not meant to be funny. Let's be honest Kenneth, the Bing Show is not meant to be Keystone Cop material but a pleasant saunter along with a few good songs and a hunk of light-hearted relief and a story that you don't have to spend a sleepless night trying to figure out. View in again sometime Kenneth and you may revise your opinion of this pleasant little 25 minute interlude.

KING OF JAZZ

by FRED REYNOLDS

I was recently afforded the rare opportunity of seeing possibly all that now remains of the "King Of Jazz". It has been confirmed that so far as is known there is no complete copy of the film now in existence. It was produced by Carl Laemmle for Universal Pictures and released on 17th August, 1930. It was one of the first coloured talking films to be shown in England and by the standards of the time was an extremely lavish and expensive production. The film was designed solely as a means of introducing Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra to screen audiences but our particular interest lies in the fact that it was also the film in which Bing Crosby made his first screen appearance. His escapades during the making of the film resulted in his promised solo item, "Song Of The Dawn", being featured instead by John Boles and are too well known to bear detailed repetition here.

Events which preceded the making of the film were extraordinary. After due negotiation by which Carl Laemmle had agreed to pay him one hundred thousand dollars, Whiteman with his orchestra and whole organisation left New York in June, 1929. Whiteman's radio sponsors, "Old Gold" Cigarettes, provided a special train called the "Old Gold Paul Whiteman Special" for the journey as an advertising stunt and with Ted Husing as announcer broadcast the weekly hour show en route. The party arrived with extensive publicity in Los Angeles on 29th June and in the discussions which followed Whiteman found the proposed story for the film quite unsuitable. He had been cast in a silly romantic role which he rejected and returned with his entire retinue to New York on 1st September. Preparations for the film continued, however, and further negotiations resulted in a second journey to Hollywood in January 1930, this time in a more orthodox and less blatant manner.

Carl Laemmle originally obtained as director Dr. Paul Fejos, a Hungarian living in Germany, but when the film was made it was stated that a new director, John Murray Anderson, had replaced Fejos. Anderson was a stage director and responsible for the film's stage settings but was credited with the full direction of the film. I am informed on reliable authority, however, that Fejos did in fact direct the film but quarrelled with Universal who then cut his name from the credits and substituted that of Anderson.

The film as originally released ran for 105 minutes but the longest piece of the film now known to exist runs for only about 30 minutes. This is the film that I saw a few weeks ago but unfortunately not one of the scenes featuring Crosby have survived. In the original film he was featured in the presentation of "A bench in the park" (in which the Rhythm Boys supported the Brox Sisters), "So the bluebirds and the blackbirds" (Rhythm Boys), "Happy feet" (Rhythm Boys and others). There is some doubt as to whether Bing sang "Music hath charms".

It may be of interest (and perhaps bring back memories) to learn the contents of the film I saw. The extracts shown were not in their original sequence and the film commenced, without any screen credits or preamble, by showing a page from "Paul Whiteman's Scrapbook" with the title "My Ragamuffin Romeo". This song was then featured as a duet by Jeannie Lang and an unknown male singer seated on a donkey cart, and danced by two "ragamuffins". The colour of the film had a pink, rosy tinge which persisted throughout. The original introductory scene was next shown with Paul Whiteman standing by a model of an orchestra stand. From his valise small-size bandsmen emerge and climb on to the stand which then enlarges to full size. I was told, incidentally, that one of the "bandsmen" carrying a saxophone was Bing but it was impossible to determine this with accuracy. A couple of sketches were seen, one with Glenn Tryon as a husband who returns home to find his wife's lover in hiding and chides him for frightening the child, the other with Laura La Plante as an editress urging the reporters to get more up to date news until one enters with "Wife shoots husband". "When?". "Listen". Gunshot. There were some excellent pictures of Mike Pingitore playing banjo and a line of

pulchritudinous damsels in a "sit-down" dance to "I like to do things for you". "My bridal veil" sequence showed Jeanette Loff taking a bridal dress and veil from an old trunk and imagining musical scenes of wedding groups entering to the strains of various melodies which included "Long, long ago" and "Linger awhile". The extracts finished with a long sequence from the "Melting Pot" finale with medleys of national airs and the songs from the film. These included "D'ye ken John Peel", "Coming through the rye", "Santa Lucia", "Happy feet", "A bench in the park", "It happened in Monterey", "Song of the dawn" and featured the orchestra, Jeanette Loff, George Chiles, Market Dancers, the Hollywood Beauties and many others.

I would be grateful if members could let me have any additional information about "King of Jazz" including sketches, songs and the artists.

A TREE GROWS IN WALLSEND (A Parable)

by FRED REYNOLDS

And a small tree grew in the land and gave forth its fruit to the people. But the soil was impoverished by beetles ans stones and the head gardener called to the other gardeners saying "We must work harder to improve the soil and bring alms for implements for our tree". And it was good and the tree grew.

But the head gardener called unto the people saying "We must all bring more silver to buy better implements to make our tree grow and yield more fruit". And it was so and it was good and the tree flourished.

But the head gardener was not satisfied and in the darkness of night he arose and planted another tree beside the first one. And he spake thus unto the people "Behold my own tree which will flourish and grow so that it will be seen beyond the land and I shall leave the first tree to thee. And thou shalt bring silver for my tree and I shall use thy implements to cultivate it".

But the other gardeners were astonished at his foolishness and spake thus among themselves "The soil may not sustain two trees and both may die. Let us prevail upon him to grow one mighty tree for all to see and share its goodness". But he replied saying "I will keep my tree and use thy tools and thou may help me with it".

And the gardeners met together at the House of Jack and many were angry and gnashed their teeth saying "Who is this man that wants his own tree and our silver and our labour and our implements". And they rose and said "Return our tools for your tree may make ours wither".

And the head gardener was afraid of their anger and answered "Verily I shall return as head gardener of thy tree and keep the tools and still have my tree". And the people and the gardeners were dismayed and confusion reigned in the land and many knew not which tree to tend.

And the gardeners again said "Return our tools because you forsook our tree for thine". But he answered "Nay, I shall return as your head gardener. That is that and no one shall question me. The tools are in my house and have my name upon them and I shall keep them".

And those who were not blind were angry at his perfidy.

THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY Part III

As stated on Page 27 of this issue, the distribution of the Bing Crosby discography will be delayed entirely due to the decision of FRANK MURPHY conditionally refusing to print this discography on the equipment belonging to THE BRITISH BING CROSBY SOCIETY. On behalf of the Authors, all subscribers and others interested will get this work in due time. We can assure you all that it will be well worth the unavoidable wait ...!

It is an open air theatre in a cleared space on the New Guinea shore. The movie goes on at 7.30. It's only 7.00 but the place is beginning to fill up. Australians are here, and New Zealand flyers, and black natives stand in the rear, but mostly the upturned barrel seats are occupied by Americans - in Khaki, in blue dungarees. They sit impatiently, for the movie is the thing they look forward to all day. "What's the show tonight, Joe?" - "Hedy Lamarr". "A-a-ah!". They wait, and gradually the rest of the seats begin to fill up. But there is a great deal of impatience here. Twenty minutes to go before the picture starts. Suddenly, out of the silence, over the loud speaker, the first notes of an orchestra blare forth, and then Crosby's voice comes on. The projectionist in the booth is killing time by playing Crosby records. Now there's no more fidgeting, there's a kind of relaxation seeping through the place. The projectionist plays another Crosby tune - and another one. Then he looks at his watch: 7.30. Time to begin. He stops the record right in the middle, snaps all the lights off, and reaches for the gimmick on the motion picture projector. But from the new darkness in front of him there comes a wail: "Hey - the hell with the picture - let's hear the end of that record!".

oOo

It is a USO show in one of the Fiji Islands. There's a big G I audience, a couple of thousand men. Down in front, squatting on the ground, are forty or fifty natives from the districts - the big heads of frizzy hair, the black skin, the extraordinary bodies. The young man on the stage is doing imitations. He imitates Lionel Barrymore, Bette Davies and Mrs Roosevelt. After each imitation he is greated by a nice round of applause from the G Is. But the natives down front sit immobile and expressionless. They don't know what the young man up there is doing. But then he begins to imitate Bing Crosby, and the natives down front almost go into hysterics. They roar with delight. One of them points a long black finger at the man on the stage. "BING!" he shouts, "BING!".

oOo

A radio man in a fox hole nestles down for the night and does a trick he learned from another radio man. He takes a razor blade and a safety pin and he does things with them. Then he connects a set of head phones to the gadget. He fiddles with it and curses it, and suddenly - luck ! - he hears a voice coming over his preposterous foxhole radio. Crosby singing "Day Dreaming". The soldier settles down in one corner of the pit and closes his eyes and smiles. A soldier in the next hole shouts across to him: "Hey, Jimmie, does yours work? - I can't get a damn thing on mine!". Jimmie folds his long thin body into a tight knot in one corner of the foxhole and closes his eyes. "Shut up," he says, and smiles. "I've got Crosby on mine. Don't wake me up. Let me dream".

oOo

A soldier in a bed at a base hospital raises his good hand and looks at his watch. It's 8.29. Time to turn over. There's no nurse in sight, and he doesn't want to ring for one anyway because he figures he's been bother enough as it is. So he makes the whole tremendous move himself - he turns from his back to his side. It takes a long time - a good thirty seconds. Finally he makes it. Now he's in position to reach over to the small radio on the table by his bedside. His hand slowly lands on the knob. He turns it on, and in a few seconds there is a voice oozing out of the radio - first a buzz, then a faraway echo, and then the full voice saying: "....tonight, as every night at this time, the voice of Bing Crosby". The soldier looks again at the clock on the wall, 8.30. Just right. He smiles, and closes his eyes, and listens.

oOo

Reprinted from "A GARLAND FOR BING" by Sidney Carroll (July 1945)

oOo

ALTERNATIVE TAKES

It must be a couple of years since I last did an article under the above heading - this lapse has not been due to lack of interest, but mainly due to lack of time and suitable material. However, during the past few months I have been able to check two old favourites that Bing recorded with brother Bob way back in 1938. Here then, are the details which I hope will be of interest to readers.

BY
BOB ROBERTS
56 THOROLD RD
CHATHAM KENT

- - - - - - - - - -

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY MATRIX C91511 Oct 14, 1938

Take "A" Bing sings "...you must have been a beautiful baby...."
Take "B" Bing sings "Oh you must have been a beautiful baby...."

Apart from the above noticable difference, the line "The miricle of any century" is sung completely different on each take.

The "A" Take was issued on:- Decca(USA) 2147;91613;DL8142
Brunswick(Eng) 02694
Ace Of Hearts (Eng) AH 1
Decca (Aust) Y 5275
Festival(Aust) FGL 12-967/3

The "B" Take was issued on:- Decca (USA) 2147

- -

OLD FOLKS MATRIX C91512 Oct 14, 1938

Take "A" Bing sings ".....Every Friday he goes fishing....."
Take "B" Bing sings ".....Every Friday he's going fishing....."

There are also minor phrasing differences between the two takes.

The "A" Take was issued on: Decca(USA)2123;91615;DL8143
Brunswick(Eng) 02694
Ace Of Hearts(Eng) AH 1
Decca(Aust) FGL 12-967/ 3

The "B" Take was issued on: Decca (USA) 2123

- -

I have two spare copies of Bing's only 45rpm record to be issued in POLAND. I prefer to trade these for other Bing material but cash offers will be considered. Full details of the disc are as follows:-

PLEASE (SF 11-A)
DID YOU EVER SEE A DREAM WALKING? (LA 89-A)
The disc is actually PRESSED in Poland.

Happy collecting - BOB

- -

CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER ?

A Quarterly Miscellany of Crosbyana - by LES PHYTHIAN

Did I hear someone mutter "and about time, too"?.....My profound apologies to one and all for recent absences which, I assure you, have been unavoidable. The reasons are numerous, and, since most of them would hold no interest whatsoever for the average reader of this column (if I have a reader left, that is - average or otherwise!), I shall stoically refrain from setting them down for general perusal.

To ease into these ramblings with more positive intent, let me now record with considerable pleasure and gratitude my attendance at the annual gathering held, with customary hospitality, at Jack Manners' home on 25th September last. Once again Jack and his good wife performed minor miracles in accommodating, with deceptive ease, a sizeable crowd of assorted Crosbyites who had journeyed from a variety of places; and as usual the indefatigable Kit - virtually marooned in her kitchen for the greater part of the proceedings - dispensed a seemingly endless supply of tea, sandwiches, etc. with her now-familiar cheerful efficiency. So I'd like to offer, here and now, a warm word of thanks on behalf of all who reaped the benefit of those splendid, tireless efforts at the 'production' end. In addition to the 'regulars' (many of whom only manage to see each other once a year at this get-together) I'm sure everyone present was truly delighted to welcome Eddie Rice who, on holiday from the 'States, came along in company with Derek Parkes. A particular pleasure, perhaps, for those of us who in the past had known him only as a keen enthusiast through correspondence. Eddie turned out to be excellent company in every way, with a fund of fascinating anecdotes about the inimitable Bing and a quantity of interesting material by that worthy gent on tape. Unfortunately, having arrived a little late I was prevented from hearing quite a lot of this by a totally unexpected diversion which I shall touch upon in a moment. What I did manage to hear of Ed's special material, however, sounded marvellous. I was glad to meet Mike Crampton once again and disappointed that Ted Laker was unable to attend this year. (Thanks Ted, by the way, for those few kind words in the September issue. It's nice to know these effusions are appreciated).

This year, for some of us at least, the event wasn't entirely the lighthearted, freewheeling affair we had anticipated. As a direct result of some radical changes that have taken place recently within the structure of this Society, and in particular because of certain outside activities which were seen to represent a distinct threat to its stability, even to its survival as a viable organization (I regret that I am not at liberty to go into greater detail than this for the present), it became incumbent upon those Officers assembled at Jack's to convene a hurried, informal Meeting for the purpose of reaching a number of decisions regarded as of fundamental importance to the whole future of The British Crosby Society. Some contentious points inevitably had to be raised and, moreover, had to be thrashed out to the satisfaction of all concerned then and there. It is necessary to emphasize that the developments referred to earlier had by 25th September crystallized to the point where they had taken on the unmistakable character of a real emergency. The danger signals were plain enough, and, for those with sufficient vision to apprehend the disastrous ramifications of allowing the situation to drift on unchecked, it quickly became apparent that, like it or not, we had a genuine crisis on our hands. Not unnaturally, therefore, the discussions tended to occupy a considerable period of time; but I'm happy to say that when the Meeting eventually broke up most of the basic problems had been satisfactorily resolved..... Afterwards, the essence of the major policy decisions taken at that Meeting were announced to the 30/40 Members present and, after a free discussion during which some forceful opinions were expressed, received their unanimous and enthusiastic approval. For the record let it be made clear that the Society Officers and other interested

CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER? - by LES PHYTHIAN (continued)

parties directly involved in these discussions, for the whole or part of the time, were (in addition to your present scribe) JACK MANNERS, RALPH HARDING, FRED REYNOLDS, BOB ROBERTS, GEOFF MILNE, FRANK HATWELL, ERIC GRIFFITHS and FRANK GRANT. And let it be made equally clear - to preclude any possibility of misunderstanding - that the services of Eric Griffiths were generously volunteered, with a specific purpose in mind, following the suggestion of some Society Officers who rightly felt that prevailing circumstances left them with no practicable alternative.

Without wishing to usurp Ralph's editorial prerogative in any way, I think it's safe to say that some of the policy decisions I've hinted at (apart from those explicitly mentioned in his mammoth Editorial) will be reflected for all to see in this present issue of CROSBY POST. It is sincerely hoped that these changes in lay-out and content (indeed in the whole basic approach) will meet with the ready approval of at least the majority of regular readers; and if the necessary future support is forthcoming from Members everywhere - the importance of this cannot be exaggerated - a great many other improvements are planned both for this magazine and the Society as a whole.

Since I've been a reluctant absentee from the last couple of issues, my reviews of Bing movies shown via the television screens have unhappily had to go by the board along with all the rest. For the sake of completeness, however, I'm listing here the titles and dates of those Crosby films shown on BBC-1 since my last column appeared. These are:- BLUE SKIES (18th April), WELCOME STRANGER (23rd May), ROAD TO UTOPIA (6th June) and THE EMPEROR WALTZ (11th July). Readers will appreciate that in the past I have only been able to cover, and comment on, those films shown on BBC-1, and I am only too well aware that a number of important productions (including BIRTH OF THE BLUES, ROAD TO MOROCCO, MISSISSIPPI and WE'RE NOT DRESSING) have graced the BBC-2 screens - programmes hitherto unavailable in these parts. Bravely attempting to ignore the mass of frustrations engendered by the foregoing, I am truly delighted to announce that from 31st October (these Notes are being compiled in advance of that date) the services of BBC-2 will be extended to cover the Lancashire/Cheshire area through the transmitter at Winter Hill, while, a little later on, the Emley Moor transmitter will go into operation for the benefit of those living in Yorkshire and its environs. So from here on I shall have the extreme pleasure of watching and thereafter reviewing every Bing movie they care to reissue on television. A happy thought for 1966.

Earlier in the year I happened to catch a morning broadcast (BBC Home Service, 8th March) called "Our Times", for which Bing's recording of "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime" provided a fitting introduction. The programme, the third in a series of five broadcasts devoted to "events and developments since the end of the Second World War", was compiled from BBC archive recordings, written and introduced by Gilbert Phelps and put out primarily for technical colleges. This was by no means the first - merely the most recent - instance of this great recording being used to introduce or illustrate programmes written around serious sociological topics, and I mention it here simply because its continued use in connection with educational and documentary programme material constitutes a well-deserved tribute both to Harburg & Gorney's remarkably evocative song and the now-classic treatment given it by Bing on 25th October, 1932.

Well, the Festive Season is with us once again and it seems appropriate to end these jottings by setting a not-too-difficult poser with the object of providing a measure of Yuletide diversion. The following words form the verse to one of Bing's best-known recorded songs. No prizes are offered (it really isn't at all difficult and

CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER? - by LES PHYTHIAN (continued)

I guarantee you've all heard the chorus on countless occasions) but - just for fun - can anyone come up with the title inside, say, 30 seconds?

"The sun is shining, the grass is green,
The orange and palm trees sway;
There's never been such a day in Beverly Hills, L.A.
But it's December the twenty-fourth,
And I'm longing to be up north."

A Happy Christmas to all and the best of everything (which automatically implies generous helpings of Mr. C) in the year ahead.

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THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY PART III (The Bing Crosby discography) RALPH HARDING.

It is with sincere regret that I and my fellow team members have to announce that publication will be delayed for several weeks. The reason is simply as follows... After a great deal of correspondance between Frank Murphy and various Officers of The British Crosby Society dealing with the future of the Society and Franks insistance in remaining in full control and various other aspects (which are fully dealt with by LES PHYTHIAN in this issue) I received a letter From Frank Murphy which contained the following ultimatum ...

"I (FRANK MURPHY) WILL CONTINUE PRINTING THE DISCOG ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITION, THAT I RECEIVE FROM YOU, LES PHYTHIAN AND FRED REYNOLDS, A PERSONAL RETRACTION OF THE DEMANDS OF YOUR RECENT LETTERS".

The date of this letter was 18th.October 1965. All the stencils and materials had been in Frank Murphy's possession for some time and we had been in touch discussing the printing, the run-offs and the work involved. Less than two weeks previously he had written to me telling me that he had run-off stencils, photo-stencils had been ordered and that we would meet our dead-line as promised.
This ultimatum (which I replied to him that this was nothing less than conditional blackmail) was quite unacceptable to LES PHYTHIAN, FRED REYNOLDS, myself and others involved. Simply that we were not prepared to retract anything we had stated to Frank Murphy that we knew to be the truth. Nevertheless I wrote urging Frank to reconsider his ultimatum. Despite abusive correspondance I received I continued to urge him to reconsider but to no avail. Fearing that the stencils (well over 100 stencils consuming many months of work) would not be forthcoming, I wrote to Frank Murphy ... "If I do not receive this material from you in a reasonable space of time, I shall place the whole matter in the hands of my Solicitors. This, I emphasise is not in the nature of a threat" In a further letter I repeated again "This, I emphasise is not in the nature of a threat but I am merely taking steps to ensure that if you decide eventually not to print the discog, I would get back the material I have worked so hard to prepare.

I am happy to report that as I type this, the first part of the material has been returned. So despite Frank Murphy, the discography will be distributed but with at least a two month delay. I have complied with all Frank's requests about the discog, even to the extent of sending him £10 of my personal money as an advance. He asked me for £20 before he commenced printing but accepted £10 to carry on with. Frank has told me that, using the British Crosby Society equipment, he prints club magazines for the ANNE SHELTON CLUB and the THIRTIES CLUB. I do not deplore this if it brings in some little extra revenue but it appals me to realise that he will not print a publication devoted to BING CROSBY for the entire benefit of BING CROSBY enthusiasts and devotees.

RADIO DISCOGRAPHY RADIO DISCOGRAPHY RADIO DISCOGRAPHY RADIO

PHILCO RADIO TIME

Starring: BING CROSBY Announcer: KEN CARPENTER

Program No 23 19 Mar 1947

Featuring: DANNY KAYE PEGGY LEE CHARIOTEERS J.S. TROTTER's Orch.

1	Managua Nicuragua	Bing and Charioteers
	Philco Commercial	Bing and Ken Carpenter
2	Squeeze Me but Please Don't Tease Me	Peggy Lee
3	Linda	Bing
	Intro Danny Kaye	
4	Begin the Beguine	Danny Kaye
	Sketch	Bing and Danny Kaye
5	Dinah's Lullaby	Danny Kaye
6	Brahm's Lullaby	Bing and Danny Kaye
7	It's a Good Day	Bing and Peggy Lee
	Philco Commercial	Ken Carpenter
8	Why Must Love Be Such a Random Thing	Bing

RADIO DISCOGRAPHY RADIO DISCOGRAPHY RADIO DISCOGRAPHY RADIO

Yes, this really is a discography of a radio series because all of the Philco radio shows by Bing were pre-recorded on 16 inch transcription discs.

Above is reproduced an extract from the discography which is currently being printed. Information has been obtained from the transcription discs, by listening to the programmes and from studio notes written at the time the shows were recorded. Further information of this project, and those to follow (all Bing) may be had from:

D.C. Parkes, 1, St. Francis Crescent, SALISBURY, Wilts., England.

The above space has been willingly given without charge to Derek. It has always been the policy of your Editor to encourage discographical work of all kind, particularly when it benefits the ordinary collector. Knowing the work of D.C.P. this should be thoroughly comprehensive and a "must" for all who are interested in Bing's radio work.

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The Authors of the series of discographies issued under the title "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY" would like to point out that the above advertised discography is not a part of that series and in fact is a private project of Derek. In due time, the Authors will be producing their own "NON-COMMERCIAL" discog which will cover all aspects of this type of material, i.e. ALL radio, ALL T.V. and film non-commercial material. However this material will not be available for several months as we intend to cover the whole of the issues made commercially before attempting to cover non-commercial material. The PHILCO discography by Derek is therefore to be welcomed and supported.

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HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR COPY OF "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY" Part III ..??????? This work is ESSENTIAL for the Bing collector. Send your remittance now to RALPH HARDING. Part I and II are now out of print and unobtainable.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

At the emergency meeting of Club Officers on 25th. September, occasioned by the announced resignation of Frank Murphy, it was decided that the title of "Co-President" should be superseded by the more appropriate designation of "SECRETARY".

It may amuse you to learn that the printed notepaper used by "THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE" now bears the heading "Secretary: Frank Murphy" ...

The Secretary Bird (of genus Crane)
Has many natural gifts;
Its aquiline beak can take the strain
Of anything it lifts.

Its melancholy tone is faintly heard
Protesting as it says,
"I'm a Secretary bird, yes a Secretary Bird,
And not an active Pres."

(From "An Anthology of African Bird Rhymes"
by FRED REYNOLDS)

****

KEN McMANUS - THE TRUE STORY

In the Editorial of THE CROSBY POST for JUNE 1965 written by FRANK MURPHY, there appeared the following para graph ...
KEN MCMANUS IS NO LONGER A REGISTERED MEMBER OF OUR CROSBY SOCIETY AND I WOULD APPRECIATE CONTRIBUTORS AND MEMBERS DELETING MENTION OF HIS NAME IN ANY FUTURE ARTICLE OR CORRESPONDANCE ADDRESSED TO ME (FRANK MURPHY)
Furthermore, an Editor's note appeared as follows ... He (Ken McManus) has done me a grave injustice financially ... he is no longer a member of our Crosby Circle and any reference to him will be deleted from future articles ...
Well members, you may well ask what heinous crime Ken committed. These are the facts that Ken has asked to make public.
Ken (in his capacity working for PYE RECORDS) was able to buy LP records at greatly reduced prices. In other words as a respected member of the recording industry, he could obtain LP's far cheaper than retail shop prices. Over many months FRANK MURPHY took full advantage of this and Ken obtained several discs for Frank at cheap prices. Frank sent 25/- to Ken to obtain a particular disc and in the period between receiving the 25/- and obtaining the record, Ken changed his job, left PYE RECORDS and took a better job at another firm. This meant greater difficulty in getting cheap records and naturally Frank Murphy didn't get his record as quick as he would have liked. Due to the terrific amount of work involved in changing his work, Ken McManus did not answer the letters of Frank Murphy as quickly as expected. The result was the above paragraphs in the POST by Frank Murphy. I must point out that Ken was not only doing Frank a financial favour in getting these new LP's cheaper but also jeapodising his job to do so. Notwithstanding the wonderful work Ken had done for the CROSBY SOCIETY in supplying cheap LP's and many LP's as free gifts on many occasions, he was expelled by FRANK MURPHY without ONE WORD OF EXPLANATION. As copies of the POST are sent to people in the recording industry, the effect on Ken's reputation could have been disastrous!

The 25/- was returned to Frank Murphy so no harm was ever done or intended except that a man of the highest integrity was expelled from the Society by a President who chose to bring personal affairs into the Club's activities.
And the record required cheaply ... it was an ELVIS PRESLEY long player ...!!!

BITS AND PIECES - ITEMS OF INTEREST - QUOTES AND COMMENTS. R.S.Harding.

STAR QUOTE (from NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS, Nov 1965. submitted by William Pincott)

Says Bing Crosby: "I don't consider myself a rival of Sinatra's because I think he sings a great deal better than I ever did." Crosby added:"Sinatra is now more able and more competent in more fields than anybody I can think of."

(How modest can you possibly get ...? Whilst I share in common with many people a great admiration for Sinatra's talent and consider him, Sammy Davis Jnr. excepted, the greatest cabaret/night-club performer of all time, Sinatra will never surpass Crosby's achievements in the popular vocal field. However I will not be drawn into a Bing/Frank feud ... there is only ONE Crosby and only ONE Sinatra, each a master in his own sphere! EDITOR)

++++++++++++++++++

I would like to thank most sincerely BRIAN PATTINSON for a donation of £1. I will use 10/- of this Brian, to send you Part III of the discography "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY" and the other 10/- will be used to offset the cost of this December CROSBY POST. Your kind thoughts are very much appreciated and it is for members like yourself that I will devote all my efforts to keep the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY in existance.

++++++++++++++++++

BOB ROBERTS reports to me by letter, quoting from a letter received from member RON BOSLEY of Manchester ...

"Another thing Bob, can you please tell me what is happening to the CROSBY SOCIETY? Is it finished? Alan had a letter from FRANK MURPHY last week and it seems that Frank is leaving the Society and there is no-one else to take over the Society. I gather that members will have the opportunity to transfer to the new Club if they wish. My own sub was due in October but I haven't renewed simply because I don't know what is going on. I suppose that this will mean that I will miss the next "Post", always assuming that there will be one. Alan's sub fell due just before mine, he sent it off to Jack Manners in the usual way - Jack replied that he wasn't accepting subscriptions and he forwarded it to Frank. Now Alan doesn't know if he's still a member of the British Crosby Society or not - neither do I."

Well the answer to that is simple. The last I (or anyone else has heard) is that FRANK MURPHY is going to carry on as Dictator ... sorry I mean Secretary, to the B&C.Society. But even I'm not sure about this! However one thing is sure - you will be getting the CROSBY POST for December ('cos this is it, friend) and when we get the Club's funds, stencil and paper stock, typewriter and duplicator and ALL other assets belonging to the Club and therefore the Club Members, then I can assure you that we will have a bigger and better "POST" and for that matter a bigger and better Society.

++++++++++++++++++

Don't forget lads, this DECEMBER "CROSBY POST" has been a helluver effort to get out at fairly short notice and without the use of CLUB Funds, Paper, ink or stencils. It comes to you all FREE OF CHARGE (because Frank Murphy still holds your subscriptions or the balance thereof) If you can spare some small token payment to assist towards production, it will be greatly appreciated. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER ... but a few coppers or postage stamps will help and all donations, no matter how small, will be acknowledged. RALPH S.HARDING. "Crosbyana" 6, Castledine Road, ANERLEY, LONDON, S.E.20.

++++++++++++++++++

when writing please always enclose a stamped self addressed envelope	OUTSIDE PROJECTS An exclusive service for members of;- The British Crosby Soc'	all com's to;- BILL HALL II, Chichester Str Gateshead 8 Co Durham.

As promised in the last Crosby Post, we are devoting the record release spot this time to the re-issue of certain club L.P.'s which you have especially requested - Here is the line-up together with prices;-

(I) The Perry Como Music Hall - guest Bing Crosby - I2" L.P.

(2) The Ford Edsel Show - Bing, Sinatra, Clooney, 'Satchmo' Bob Hope. I2"LP

(3) Bing/Jolson/Clooney ducts - plus Buddy Cole. I2" L.P.

(4) I955 Cancer Revue. Bing, Sinatra, Clooney, Gary Crosby - I0" L.P.

(5) In Person - Buddy Cole, plus Bing and Rosie duets - I0" L.P.

(6) A personal (I2 minute) message from Bing (I957) 7" E.P.

Plus a brand new issue of Bing's latestpersonal message;-

(7) Side One;-A personal message from Bing-Sept I963 =
Side two;-A personal message from Frank Murphy.; =) 7" 45.

Prices are as follows;

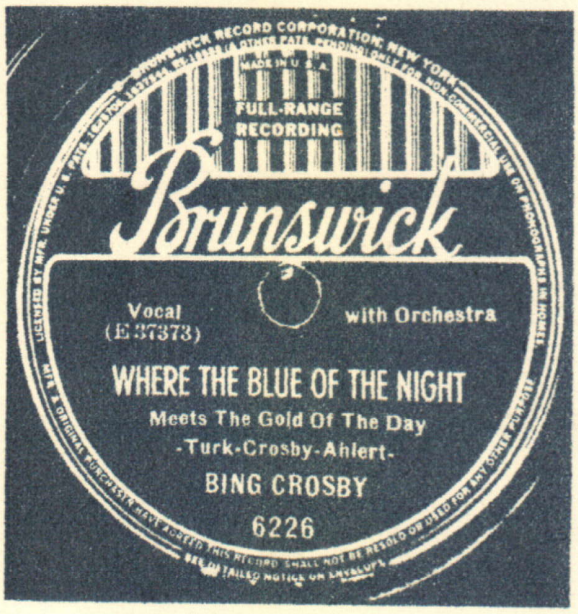
I2" L.P.'s are 40/- each - USA $6
I0" L.P.'s are 35/- each - USA $5
7" E.P. is 20/- each - USA $3
7" 45. is I6/- each - USA $2

Will USA/Australian/South African etc members please note that in addition to these prices they must enclose additional overseas postage at the following rates;-
One or two discs;- $I.50 (I0/-)
Two or more disc;- $2.00 (I4/-)

The closing date for orders is January 2nd I964, delivery approx two weeks from that date. All orders MUST be pre-paid by the closing date and weekly payments will be accepted provided you arrange to pay the full ammount of your requirements in by Jan 2nd.
TAPE COPIES of any of the above will be supplied by us at the same prices as the discs - when writing please state, speed and track requirements

Please make ALL remittances payable to The British Crosby Society and cross all cheques and postal orders.
USA dollars can be accepted from overseas members.

We hope you will take full advantage of this final opportunity to obtain these fine and exclusive records which carry a high recommendation from the club members who have already bought them in past offers.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(Williams)
SAM LANIN AND HIS ORCHESTRA
with Vocal Refrain
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END NOTE

****

DON'T FORGET YOUR BING DISCOGRAPHY - "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY"

Remember that Part I and Part II and the "V"disc Supplement are completely out of print (but there will be a re-print eventually)

Remember that copies of Part I are now changing hands at THREE times the published price ...!!!

Copies of Part II are rapidly becoming scarce.

The following note applies to you ...

YOU HAVE PAID FOR YOUR "ROAD TO BING CROSBY PART III" ✓

YOU ~~HAVE NOT PAID FOR YOUR COPY~~ YET .... SO SEND OFF THE SUM OF 9/6d POST FREE. (U.S. and Canada $1.50. POST FREE)

This copy of the December Post contains only a few of the illustrations contained in "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY Part III" There are two full pages of rare records, shots from films and of course the striking caricature cover as shown on the front of this December Post.

Don't be out of it ... GET WITH IT ...!!!

Send your remittance to ....

RALPH S.HARDING
"CROSBYANA", 6, Castledine Road,
Anerley, LONDON, S.E.20.

NOTE: ALL subscriptions MUST be sent to me.

Don't take my word for it when I dare to say that this discog is the greatest BING discog ever published ... let 150 happy and delighted recipients of previous issues convince you.

AND FINALLY, A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A REAL SWINGING NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE .... AND I MEAN EVERYONE!

(May you all find scores of copies of "I Found You" and "Face The Music Medley" ...may your turn-table never stick, may your tweeter always tweet and may your bass response respond ..!!)

VERY SINCERELY, Ralph S. Harding

"CROSBY POST" ———————— DECEMBER, 1965

S U P P L E M E N T

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEMBERS

by

LES PHYTHIAN and FRED REYNOLDS

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

'Post' for the December and March issues only, until other arrangements could be made.

'Crosby Post' (September 1965 issue): Frank Murphy announced that he was forming a new club and would be leaving The British Crosby Society as from that issue of 'Crosby Post'.

11.9.65: As a result of Frank Murphy's announcement Fred Reynolds wrote to him for more information about The International Crosby Circle and asked in what way it would differ from The British Crosby Society. He also suggested that the two clubs be combined, and asked if The International Crosby Circle would not largely duplicate The British Crosby Society.

13.9.65: Frank Murphy replied "I don't expect the new club to differ entirely from The British Crosby Society except that I expect to have a much bigger coverage of the international Crosby picture. Yes, the new club is being formed entirely by myself. Because of a rather regretful situation which has developed over my hoped for intention to use the printing machine and typewriter for my new club and which Jack Manners has said no to, it means I will no longer be associated with The British Crosby Society. I had offered the full control of The British Crosby Society to Jack, with the proviso that I retain the printing machine etc. for a period of 6 months during which time I would print 'Crosby Post' and distribute as before during that period, as well as print 'Bing' for my new club. Jack felt we should ask the Members - and I know full well what kind of support, or I should say how many would take the trouble to write - and as I have indicated to Jack the joint use of the property of The British Crosby Society would serve a useful purpose in cutting down expense for my new group as well as my being in the fortunate position of having printing material etc. laid on at most reasonable terms for both clubs. I do so want The British Crosby Society to continue under its own steam whilst leaving my new club to develop internationally - there is a need for both and I'm sure any Bing fan won't object to a joint outlay of 25/-. If something isn't reached between Jack and myself re the property of The British Crosby Society I will be prepared to let Jack have everything rather than risk the future of The British Crosby Society. Although I will no longer be identified with The British Crosby Society in the list of Officers I would be prepared to continue printing 'Crosby Post' and distributing as long as required, provided I could also print 'Bing' on the same machine. If you can talk to Jack I'd appreciate your influence in getting him to see there is room for two clubs".

25.9.65: As a result of Frank's withdrawal from The British Crosby Society an emergency Meeting was held at Jack Manners' home at which it was decided by the Officers and Members present that:

1. The post of 'President' should be discontinued.
2. A new post of 'Secretary' was created and held by Jack Manners.
3. Ralph Harding's appointment as Editor of 'Crosby Post' was confirmed.
4. A Statement of Accounts would be prepared annually.
5. A new post of 'Auditor' was created and held by Fred Reynolds.
6. Frank Murphy, being no longer an Officer of The British Crosby Society, should be asked to hand over as quickly as possible all stocks, funds, materials, equipment and all assets of the Society in his possession to Jack Manners.
7. A draft letter to Frank was to be prepared, for signature by all the Officers present. (This was prepared but, for reasons given later, it was not sent to Frank).

(?)26.9.65: Immediately after the Meeting someone (? Jack) informed Frank of the discussions held and the decisions taken.

29.9.65: Frank Murphy sent the following letter to "all the Officers interested": "I have reconsidered my decision to resign as President of The British Crosby Society and I will be resuming my activities in this connection as from now. Yours faithfully, Frank Murphy. N.B. to Ralph Harding: My offer to you to take over as Editor ONLY of 'Crosby Post' will be honoured - this post is yours for as long as you feel able to execute the duties this post entails".

30.9.65: Fred Reynolds asked Frank Murphy if, in view of his letter of 29th, he intended to continue with The International Crosby Circle.

1.10.65: Frank replied to Fred "My decision to continue with Jack Manners as President of The British Crosby Society does not in any way affect my plans for the newly formed International Crosby Circle. I intend to act as a silent active partner with Jack looking after the major decisions. I note that several of the club's Officers took part in the discussion at Jack's. I have also been informed that other people such as Eric Griffiths and Geoff Milne were also listed among those concerned and I would affirm Fred that neither of the two people above are registered paid up Members of The British Crosby Society and were therefore not entitled to be involved in the serious matters at stake".

1.10.65: Ralph Harding wrote to Frank "Speaking solely for myself, I have no objection to you resuming as President, Secretary, Editor or Lord High Executioner as long as you adhere to the principles that I made previously to you, and I might add that these principles are now expected of you by the majority of the Officers of the Society. As I have virtually completed the December 'Post' I will finish off the entire issue and leave you to take over as Editor of the March 'Post' onwards. Thus, apart from the fact that I shall edit the December 'Post' the situation will be identical to that before you decided to start off the whole unfortunate business by creating a new Bing Society, except that you will find that Members will expect to see some statement of accounts audited by an Officer of the club and also no doubt you will be expected to discontinue the new club you have formed".

5.10.65: Les Phythian wrote as follows to Frank, having first referred to his proposed resumption as President:-

> "I really don't see how you can effectively do this, Frank. Unpleasant though the task may be, I have to point out, quite unequivocally, that by virtue of your previously announced intentions and actions - culminating in your resignation from the Society - you have automatically relinquished any right you may formerly have had to make such decisions".

Les then reverted to the Meeting itself and the fact that decisions taken that day had afterwards been ratified by the unanimous consent of some 30/40 Members present, and continued:-

> "You must bear in mind that these things have happened: these events have actually taken place and cannot now be set aside and ignored because of the merest whim".
>
> "....one firm decision taken at the Meeting was forthwith to discontinue the use of the term 'President' and substitute 'Secretary', the latter being considered perfectly adequate in describing the office concerned, and - of greater significance - more in keeping with the strictly mature approach to Society affairs then envisaged for the future.

You may say that this is a minor point - a mere exercise in semantics - and perhaps in a way it is. But the singular and inescapable position emerges that (leaving aside all other considerations, and there are many) you are now purporting to resume activities in a capacity which ceased to exist, so far as this Society is concerned, five days before your circular letter was written!".

"Obviously I can't expect you to take kindly to these remarks, Frank, but I do ask you to believe that there is no malicious intent behind them. It's true that some of your methods and policies have attracted a certain amount of criticism in the past, but to my knowledge no one has ever doubted either your sincerity or enthusiasm, and no one has sought, or is now seeking, to discount the vast quantity of hard work you have done over a long period of time. But these qualities, admirable as they are, cannot conceivably alter the present position - nor can they be cited in justification of your recent arbitrary and highly irrational behaviour. We must all be prepared to face up to the consequences of our actions, however unpalatable these may be, and I trust that on reflection you'll be able to get this whole unfortunate business into perspective and admit that you have been guilty of a serious tactical error".

"So where does all this leave us? Certainly there can be no return to the former 'status quo', if only because of those Members present at Jack's the other Saturday to whom this Society owes clear moral obligations. Equally, consideration must be shown towards the feelings of those Officers who, on the same occasion, conscientiously and successfully grappled with a totally uninvited crisis-situation which, for a while, seemed to be signalling the imminent collapse of the entire organization. The present position must remain, then, unless and until a further Meeting can be arranged when the whole business can be thrashed out and existing difficulties properly resolved".

6.10.65: Frank Murphy wrote to Ralph Harding "I am sorry that you have decided not to continue as Editor of the 'Post' beyond the December edition but in view of the bitter tone of your letter it is perhaps better this way. However I don't intend to bandy words with you over the important matters at stake. Because of certain circumstances I have decided to resume as Co-President with Jack and that is that as far as you or anyone else is concerned. No one can question my right to do so and if I feel it necessary to do so I shall give a full picture of the reason why when I feel so disposed to do so. Your letter casts many aspersions on my years of handling the club's financial state. Your letter speaks of decisions reached unanimously - of what you and others will "expect" and of what you have no "objection" to. You have no right to say any of these things to me nor have you any right to make wild accusations - if indeed you had extended me the courtesy of waiting until after December when my resignation would have finally taken place before casting lots so to speak you would have had all the answers you now question in such a suspicious manner. Finally your comments about my new club are both nosey and not required as this is no concern of yours and whether or not I continue with this project has nothing to do with you personally and I trust you will refrain from mentioning this in any future correspondence you may send me".

7.10.65: Frank Murphy replied to Les Phythian "I am in receipt of your letter

dated 5th October and though you have gone to great lengths to paint a most technical picture I wish to assure you that I have no intention of adhering to the wishes of a 15% or possibly less vote taken at Jack Manners' on the future of The British Crosby Society and I would remind you that neither Geoff Milne or Eric Griffiths (as per Ralph Harding's advice) are either Members or subscribers to The British Crosby Society and have neither the right to vote or become involved in the matters at stake - neither could I be expected to hand over to non-Member Eric Griffiths the printing machine or typewriter as the letter I was supposed to receive would have demanded.... I would also advise you that these articles were purchased in my name and are housed at the above address - all invoices are in my name also.... It is not a question of whether or not I take kindly to the remarks you have made in your letter - personally, I am not concerned either way, but I would advise you that when I invited Ralph Harding to become Editor, and Editor only, of 'Crosby Post' in order that I could be assured that the club magazine would continue - this was not intended as a signal for him to take over the whole of the Society, completely overruling my wishes for the Co-President Jack Manners to remain in control of the club....and I find it necessary because of these alarming developments to retract my decision to resign in order that not only the Officers and Members who attended the Meeting in London can have their way, but the more than equal number of Members residing in my area together with Officers John Maughan and Bill Hall can also be protected.... To sum up - the position is as I advised you - I am back in control of The British Crosby Society with Co-President Jack Manners....the truth of the matter is that if you all had extended me the courtesy of waiting until December when my resignation was due to take effect (and I ask you to note this last sentence carefully) instead of casting lots so to speak before I had handed everything over, you would have all the answers to the questions you now ask so suspiciously".

9.10.65: Fred Reynolds addressed himself to Frank in the following terms:-

"I must make it quite clear that I have scant sympathy with your decision to form a new Crosby club but I recognise your, or anyone's, right to do so. You have told me that your new club is being formed 'entirely by yourself' because The British Crosby Society is limited in its international appeal. There was, and is, no reason why The British Crosby Society should be limited and any new club must inevitably offer competition for the subscriptions and efforts of interested people. You rejected my suggestion that it would be better to expand The British Crosby Society rather than have 'splinter groups' although you said that you didn't expect the new club to differ entirely from The British Crosby Society other than "a bigger coverage of the international Crosby picture". I still think that this 'expansion' could easily and more effectively have been accomplished within The British Crosby Society but you are entitled, naturally, to your opinion."

"The regrettable thing about the whole business, however, was the secrecy and abruptness with which you proceeded. Without any prior consultation with club Officers (other than asking Ralph to take on the Editorship) you abandoned a key post in The British Crosby Society, threw the whole club into a state of confusion and caused an emergency which threatens to kill the club. I should have thought that common courtesy called for sufficient notice being given of your intentions to enable alternative arrangements to be made. The first and only notice that we received was that printed in the September 'Post' to say that as from that issue you would be leaving The British Crosby Society. This incivility was aggravated, too, by the advertisement for your new International Crosby Circle

which appeared in the same issue. This notice, in my opinion, should not have been printed in the 'Post' without the agreement of the other club Officers. It was a private advertisement, unauthorized and improperly placed in our club magazine".

Fred then mentioned the Meeting at Jack's house and went on to say:-

"Immediately after this Meeting someone informed you of decisions taken, which resulted in your extraordinary letter of 29th September being sent to club Officers in which you stated your intention to resume as President. The impropriety of this action by someone no longer in office must be obvious to you. I was further informed by you on 1st October that you intended to continue your International Crosby Circle and that you will act "as a silent, active partner with Jack" as President of The British Crosby Society. Apart from the contradiction in terms (how can you be silent and active?) Members will, I feel sure, require a President (now Secretary) with a full active interest in the club".

"As the appointed club Auditor I have some concern in this matter and I now call upon you, on behalf of club Officers and Members, to honour your statement and return all club assets in your possession to Jack as quickly as possible. It is my duty also to inform you that at the Meeting on 25th September it was decided that the club equipment should not be used for the furtherance of your new club nor for the issue of its magazine".

11.10.65: Frank Murphy replied to Fred "People who have assumed various positions have lined up against me in an attack on my judgment over a matter which I considered was getting out of hand. I note also that you have omitted the names of Eric Griffiths and Geoff Milne. Let me finally advise you that I am back in control of The British Crosby Society as Co-President along with Jack Manners and whether or not I continue with The International Crosby Circle is of course no concern of yours for as a Member or Officer in The British Crosby Society you will continue to receive the full entitlements of your annual sub - if you didn't, then, and then only could you be entitled to issue the sanctions you state in your letter".

11.10.65: Les Phythian again wrote to Frank Murphy, as follows:-

"I duly received your letter of 7th October and I have in my possession a copy of the letter you sent to Ralph, written the day before - so the following lines are by way of reply to the main points raised in both communications. I should also mention - to preclude any possibility of misunderstanding between us - that Fred has sent me a copy of his letter to you, dated 9th October, and that that too is before me as I write".

"Let me first try to correct the impression that my letter of 5th October went "to great lengths to paint a most technical picture". It did nothing of the kind. On the contrary, the events that led to the present impasse speak clearly enough for themselves; my main purpose in writing as I did was to comment on what had taken place at Jack's on 25th September and to give needed emphasis to the important decisions taken at that Meeting which, to judge from your curt announcement of 29th September, you had either failed to appreciate or, worse still, chosen to ignore".

---

sentence carefully. Well, I have done so. But what sense can I be expected to make of this when you had previously stated, without qualification, your intention of leaving The British Crosby Society (this appeared in your own International Crosby Circle advertisement) with effect from the September issue of 'Crosby Post', and followed this up with the letter to Jack which included your announcement that you no longer wished to be associated with this Society?"

"As I said in my last letter, we must all be prepared to face up to the consequences of our actions

"Anyhow, since you claim to have found my letter unduly technical (there was, I repeat, no deliberate attempt on my part to 'blind you with science') I'm all the more pleased to see that Fred, in his recent letter to you, has set out the essential factors with admirable clarity and fairness. I couldn't hope to improve on what he has already written, neither do I wish to pad out these lines with mere repetition".

"Nevertheless, your letter to me contains some glaring distortions of fact, one or two of which cannot remain unchallenged. The least of these is your suggestion that some of my questions were asked 'suspiciously'. What justification do you have for saying such a thing? Also, I note your remark about having "no intention of adhering to the wishes of a 15% or possibly less vote..." and (while I must insist, in passing, that you'd be ill-advised to reject those wishes out of hand) it is surely of far greater significance that 6 out of the Society's 10 Officers were present on the occasion in question. I'm basing these statistics on the latest published list of Officers - as given in the September issue of 'Crosby Post' - allowing for the fact that Pat Sullivan could hardly be expected to attend and that Ralph Harding, having been appointed magazine Editor, had by then attained official status".

"This brings me to the wildest inaccuracy, and, in its implications, the most serious misstatement of all - your allegation that Ralph had somehow tried to "take over the whole of the Society", completely overruling your wishes (as you put it) "for the Co-President Jack Manners to remain in control...." Really, Frank, I've no idea who or what inspired this priceless indiscretion, <u>but I hasten to refute the accusation - which is totally without foundation and grossly unfair to Ralph - with all the emphasis I can bring to bear.</u> There is no substance whatsoever in this outrageous imputation, as you and your unreliable informant(s) would do well to recognise. You go on to hint vaguely at "alarming developments", and then add, just as obscurely, something to the effect that you have retracted your decision to resign in order that "Members residing in my area together with Officers John Maughan and Bill Hall can also be protected". Protected from WHAT, for Heaven's sake? To the best of my knowledge, Jack <u>has</u> remained in control of the Society in his capacity of Secretary (formerly President). And let me assure you, very definitely, that none of us (Ralph, Fred, Bob or myself) has or had any intention or desire to 'take over' the affairs of the Society in the sense that you mean. For a start, we all lack the necessary spare time for such a pursuit - though it doesn't follow from this that we are any less concerned to ensure that the affairs of the Society are properly run".

"I have tried - and am still trying - to keep these exchanges free of any bitterness, Frank, because such attitudes can scarcely benefit any of us individually or the Society as a whole. Even so, I find it impossible to gloss over such things as your unkind remarks about Ralph which, as I've tried to make clear, are completely unjustified. The decidedly stubborn stand you are taking about your resignation isn't exactly calculated to help either. You say that if we had extended you the courtesy of waiting until December when your resignation "was due to take effect..." and ask me to note the

sentence carefully. Well, I have done so. But what sense can I be expected to make of this when you had previously stated, without qualification, your intention of leaving The British Crosby Society (this appeared in your own International Crosby Circle advertisement) with effect from the September issue of 'Crosby Post', and followed this up with the letter to Jack which included your announcement that you no longer wished to be associated with this Society?"

"As I said in my last letter, we must all be prepared to face up to the consequences of our actions - none of us can 'have our cake and eat it' - and unless you're willing to concede this elementary proposition then I fear the whole business becomes a mockery, unworthy of the attention of grown-up people".

This attempt on Les' part to rationalize a situation rapidly becoming downright preposterous elicited the following response from Frank:-

"Your letter dated October 11th is to hand and the contents have been duly noted. Yours faithfully, Frank Murphy".

15.10.65: Fred Reynolds again wrote to Frank. Here are the relevant passages from that letter:-

"I have your letter of 11th October and now comment on this and other recent correspondence".

"You have chosen to disregard the various points I made in my letter of 9th October - no doubt for the very good reason that they are unanswerable. Your reference to "people who have assumed various positions" utterly ignores the fact that such positions were taken entirely as a result of your own actions when something had to be done in an emergency to keep the club alive. You refuse to acknowledge that having voluntarily resigned from the club you no longer had any connection with it and that your announced 'resumption' is the only case of a position being assumed".

"It appears that you are now trying to establish that your resignation was not effective until December but this is belied by your statements in the 'Post' and your letters. You have clearly said that as from the September issue of 'Post' you would be leaving The British Crosby Society".

"I am entirely in agreement with you that if Eric Griffiths and Geoff Milne are non-Members they should have no voice in determining events and it was for this reason that I did not mention them. In fact this is precisely the argument that applies to yourself after your voluntary resignation but of course you choose to ignore this aspect. Your actions, if not opposed, reduce the status of other club Officers to that of mere stooges to be used by you as you will".

"The phrases in your letter to Ralph certainly support this contention: "because of certain circumstances I have decided to resume and that is that", "no one can question my right to do so", "if I feel it necessary I shall give a full picture when I feel so disposed". Have a good look at these, Frank, and reflect that even De Gaulle would hesitate to use such dictatorial expressions to his colleagues. Do you not think that after we did our best to save the club (following the confusion you caused) that we should not be given some explanation of your vacillating behaviour?"

"If you are under the serious misapprehension that the discography team is trying to take over the club allow me to correct your erroneous impression. We have as much work as we can cope with for some years to come without wishing to take on more. Certainly we are concerned to see that the club is properly organized and managed but none of us could take on the job of Secretary, President or Editor as a permanent appointment. Your suggestion that Members from the North need 'protection' is as insulting to them as it is to those from the South. So far as we are concerned it is The British Crosby Society. Your remark could start a North v. South controversy without any cause whatsoever."

"There may be little point in continuing this correspondence at the present time as you have made it clear that you will heed no one but yourself, but I must place on record my protest at your behaviour. For someone holding a senior post in the Society I consider that you have acted most irresponsibly. No one asked you to resign - you did so to satisfy your own whim (The International Crosby Circle) and gave no notice of your intention to do so. Having resigned and severed your connection with the club, however, I don't see how you can fairly or legitimately, and without consultation, dictatorially announce your resumption. The very least you should have done, if you wished to return, was to offer yourself for re-election. Obviously you preferred to take full advantage of the fact that equipment and assets owned by the club have remained in your hands".

17.10.65: Ralph Harding wrote to Frank Murphy "At the moment I am far too busy to enter into the British Crosby Society arguments. However I must make one point plain. I can assure you that I have never at any time expressed any wish or made any move to take any control of The British Crosby Society. On the contrary I made it perfectly clear that Jack Manners should take control. At the moment of writing the production of Part 3 of the discography is of more importance to me than anything else". Ralph then asked Frank to let him have by the following week-end the printed discography pages so that he could put them together for distribution.

18.10.65: Frank replied to Ralph "With regret I have to advise you that it will not be possible for me to complete the print on the discography by the week-end - I realise the deadline will not now be met. I had run off a total of 40 pages and was set to complete the batch of 60 you had sent me when I received word that the result of my requests to continue using the printing machinehad been flatly turned down and that I was to expect a letter signed by you all demanding the return of the machine etc to London without delay. I hope it may be possible for you to imagine how I felt. Did no one realise I was hard at work printing the discography. Needless to say I have found it impossible because of my personal feelings to continue the work on the discography and have since been placed in an even more difficult situation following my decision to resume as Co-Pres of The British Crosby Society when I have been on the receiving end of epistles from you, Les Phythian and Fred Reynolds, the latter in his letter of Oct 9th again re-affirming that all club assets should be returned to London as soon as possible and the two letters from Les Phythian covering all aspects of the supposed illegality of my decision to continue as Co-Pres. What happens now Ralph - do I ignore the wishes of your fellow co-authors and continue printing or do I wait until they decide I can now continue, and that for the present it may perhaps be OK. I will continue printing the discography on the following conditions - that I receive from you, Les Phythian and Fred Reynolds a personal retraction of the demands of your recent letters".

20.10.65: Ralph Harding wrote to Frank Murphy "This is nothing less than conditional blackmail. Either we retract what we know, and you know only too well, to be perfectly true or you will not print the discography. The fact that the discography is intended for about 150 Bing Crosby enthusiasts and Members of The British Crosby Society means nothing to you. The fact that these 150 people have been waiting for this work to be completed and in about 65 cases have already paid for this on trust (a trust that you intend to break) again means nothing to you". Ralph then asked Frank either to print the discography as arranged or to return to him as soon as possible the necessary stencils, the front cover sketch, and either the £10 cash advance made to Frank to cover the cost of materials or the run-off sheets of the first 40 pages.

22.10.65: Les Phythian wrote to Frank Murphy "Ralph has passed to me a copy of your letter of 18th October and I can only say that I am every bit as appalled at the contents as he is. Your decision to withhold printing of the discography whilst seeking to impose advantageous conditions far exceeds all the bounds of acceptable behaviour - and this note is simply to inform you that, like Ralph and my other colleagues, I absolutely refuse to be intimidated by such deplorable tactics".

25.10.65: Frank Murphy wrote to Ralph Harding "I am in receipt of your current letter and note with regret that neither you nor Les Phythian and Fred Reynolds can withdraw the sanctions placed against me in the printing of the discography and I have therefore no alternative other than to return to you all the material etc appertaining to this work".

COMMENT

The above extracts are factual and we now propose to offer our considered opinion on those facts.

The emergency Meeting on 25th September last came about as a direct and inevitable result of Frank Murphy's announcement of his resignation from this Society with effect from the then current issue of 'Crosby Post' in order to start an entirely new club called The International Crosby Circle. This formal announcement was followed shortly afterwards, in a letter to Jack Manners, by the unqualified statement that he (Frank Murphy) no longer wished to be associated with The British Crosby Society. He made similar statements in letters to Fred Reynolds and Ralph Harding. Frank's reasons for taking this step are still unknown to us. They are in any event his own affair and need not unduly concern us at present. Of far greater importance, however, is the fact that he took this very decisive action without prior reference of any kind to his fellow Officers. Indeed, the announcement in September's 'Post' was the first intimation (other than Frank's offer of the Editorship to Ralph) that anyone had received of the sweeping changes then contemplated by him. It must be borne in mind that the Membership of this Society is approximately 200 - by no means an impressive figure when one relates it to the unique stature and achievements of the great artiste whose name the organization bears - so it will be fairly obvious, on this basis alone, that there simply isn't room in this country for two separate bodies devoted to Bing's interests to prosper and grow. A second organization, conceived on these lines, would merely result in splitting the Membership of the present Society; some would undoubtedly take out a subscription to both, while others, more casual in their approach, would just as certainly find themselves attracted towards the novelty of something seemingly different and opt in favour of the new at the expense of the old. The inevitable result of this severance would be the eventual failure, or complete cessation, of one of the two bodies concerned; possibly of both. And neither of these alternatives could by any stretch of the imagination be said to operate in Bing's favour. The International Crosby Circle, then, whatever the initial intentions of its organizer, could only function on a practical level

in direct competition with The British Crosby Society and therefore, with the best will in the world, could only be regarded as a potential threat to this Society's continued existence.

Precisely why the declared aims of The International Crosby Circle could not have been attempted within the framework of The British Crosby Society, thereby (if achieved) increasing its Membership and strengthening its position, is yet another mystery!

The dangers inherent in this odd situation immediately became apparent to those Officers present at Jack Manners' home, hence the realisation that urgent action was called for. It is necessary to emphasize once again that at all material times throughout this dispute the duplicating machine, typewriter, stencils, paper stocks, etc. (all the property of The British Crosby Society) have remained in Frank Murphy's custody. The actions taken and decisions reached at the Meeting have been set out in the foregoing extracts. Since none of the Officers concerned had the requisite spare time to devote to the admittedly burdonsome task of duplicating the pages which make up 'Crosby Post' (as distinct from the job of editing the copy) we were left with no alternative but to call for 'outside help', as it were, and it was in these rather special circumstances that Eric Griffiths came forward and volunteered to undertake the handling of 'run-off' sheets for future issues.

With a view to implementing decision No. 6 a draft letter was prepared, to be signed by all Officers involved and forwarded to Frank. Later, however, it was decided not to send this - for two reasons. One, because of Frank's circular letter of 29th September announcing his proposed 'resumption'. The other reason was that Part 111 of The Bing Crosby Discography had been announced for publication on 31st October; all final stencils for this were already held by Frank Murphy who had agreed, before any of this trouble began, to 'run-off' the necessary sheets and, in accordance with customary procedure, return these to Ralph Harding for assembling, stapling, binding and ultimate despatch to subscribers. The team responsible for compiling this Discography (RALPH HARDING, BOB ROBERTS, FRED REYNOLDS, LES PHYTHIAN and GEOFF MILNE) felt very strongly that, the present impasse notwithstanding, no action should be taken which might in any way jeopardize arrangements previously made in this connection.

Meanwhile, Frank Murphy had received information about the course of events at the emergency Meeting, and, on 29th September, sent out to all Officers concerned the brief circular letter already referred to - a 'volte-face' of the first magnitude which, as we have seen, brought forth predictable repercussions!

It is a fair assumption, we think, that the main reason for Frank's sudden change of mind was that he had reckoned, entirely without justification, that he would have been allowed to use for his own purposes the Society equipment in his possession. He had audaciously taken for granted that he would be able to utilise such equipment for the promotion of a club in direct opposition to The British Crosby Society. It is hardly necessary to point out the inconsistency of Frank's repeated statements of resignation with effect from the September issue of 'Post' and his belated attempts to amend this to December. He was obviously disappointed to find his plans thwarted in relation to The British Crosby Society's equipment and, in a manoeuvre we find quite contemptible, sought to achieve his objective by a refusal to carry out the agreed printing of the discography sheets unless we withdrew our criticisms of his actions and acceded to his demands.

Frank's letter (25.10.65) to Ralph mentions the eventual return of the various discographical sections, only the first batch of which had been 'run-off' on the

duplicating machine. At this writing it is perfectly clear that no matter how quickly Ralph can put in hand alternative arrangements, the Part 111 Discography will still be late in reaching subscribers. The Co-Authors have been powerless to avoid this delay, as we hope the foregoing notes will have established, and can do no more than take the present opportunity of offering their sincere apologies to everyone concerned.

Frank says (6th and 11th October) that The International Crosby Circle is none of our business. We strongly disagree with this assertion because anything that may affect The British Crosby Society is our concern, apart from the obvious fact that he wishes to use this Society's equipment and has already used 'Crosby Post' to publicise his intentions.

One of the most disquieting aspects of this affair is that there are strong indications in some of his letters that Frank considers himself the possessor of (or is now attempting to assume) plenary powers in the conduct of this Society's numerous activities. We deplore such undemocratic goings-on with all the force we can bring to bear. They are unseemly in the extreme and will, if left unchecked, bring the entire organization into disrepute.

In our considered opinion the actions of Frank Murphy prove beyond any reasonable doubt that he has shown little or no regard for his fellow Officers and Members of The British Crosby Society and we feel that for these reasons he should be severely censured. The only honourable course left for him to take is to resign and hand over all club assets to Jack Manners or some other duly and properly appointed Officer.

It now remains for Members themselves to decide, broadly speaking, the direction which future policy should take in the running of this Society (an organization founded on and supported by their subscriptions and interest) and it is hoped that as many as possible will lose no time in making their feelings known, one way or the other.

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FINAL COMMENT by Ralph.S.Harding.

As stated above, it now remains for members of THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY to decide for themselves how and if the Society should be controlled and conducted. Broadly speaking, the following questions MUST be answered ...
(1) Do you want a BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY (2) If so, do you want it well run, well organised, and a Bing Crosby Society of prestige with a well-produced and intelligent journal. (3) Assuming that he wishes to continue as Editor and President, do you want Frank Murphy in control. (4) Do you want him in control of the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY if he continues with his intention of producing THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE (which obviously will run in direct opposition) (5) Are you in favour of Frank Murphy running his new Club using the equipment and amenities solely provided by the memembers of the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY for THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY.
These and other questions must surely come to the mind of any intelligent member of the B.C.Soc. and I suggest that you send me your comments and ideas on this important matter. LET US FIND OUT WHAT THE MAJORITY OPINION IS ON THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS. Frank Murphy has told me that most of the Club members are quite indifferent to what goes on in the Society ... this I just cannot believe! Send your comments etc. to me, Ralph.S.Harding.

The only alternative as I and many others see it, is to re-form THE BRITISH BING CROSBY SOCIETY under "new management"and try to make a success of it. The only form of contact in any Club or Society is through its publication. Therefore it follows that the Editorship and distribution of a Club Magazine is of primary importance.
There are many former members of the BCS, Officers and contributors of the POST waiting to offer their co-operation. Such former contributors to the POST ... Ted Laker, Frank Hatwell, Bob Roberts, Les Phythian, Jack Manners, Fred Reynolds and others can and will gladly supply more than enough material to fill a Quarterly Club Magazine. We have at least three top line collectors in the USA, two in Australia, one in France, one in Belgium, in fact I could name collectors scattered far and wide who will be only too pleased to keep the material rolling in. We would have the complete co-op of the Decca Office, CBS and The Crosby Office. "Club Crosby" in America will gladly amalgamate with any project we commence. So it can be clearly seen that we have the potential, the contributors, the material and a membership ready and willing to join.
WHAT WE LACK IS AN EDITOR AND (ASSUMING OUR MAGAZINE IS PRODUCED IN THE SAME MANNER AS PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS - THIS DISCOG FOR EXAMPLE) A DUPLICATING MACHINE.
It means that the Editor would have to undertake the following work ...

(a) Purchase stencils, ink, paper, envelopes etc. from Club Funds supplied.
(b) Type material from articles supplied ... most contributors such as Ralph Harding, Les Phythian, Bob Roberts, Fred Reynolds etc. type and supply their own stencils which certainly makes for less work on the part of the Editor ... run-off the pages, collate the sheets into magazine form and finally ...
(c) Mail off a copy to each member of the Society.

I have produced a CROSBY POST in its entirety from start to actual distribution so I know what is involved. It is NOT an easy job ...!!! You may well ask why I don't take on the Editorship and production myself and the answer is simple. I produce the discog on the lines I have so described ... i.e. I type the stencils, run-off the sheets, collate in actual copies, staple, bind and finally mail to contributors. I find that the discog takes up my time and I have no further spare time for Editorship of the POST. So to lay it right on the line ... ANY VOLUNTEERS? Is there ANYONE who has or can obtain a duplicator and who would be willing to produce a Club Magazine. Is there anyone who is willing to undertake this work? If anyone has ANY ideas on the subject or any solution to this problem, then let me have them.

...000000000...

And finally, back to the subject of the discog THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY. The next part will be the final part of the discography (Part IV) and then follows the Part V on films, non-commercial material and the Biography (not necessarily in that order). Only your co-operation will ensure that this terrific project will be completed. So please buy this Part III. If you haven't paid for the copy I have sent you, please send your cash or cheque as soon as possible. If you have paid for this copy, please buy another copy or sell a copy to a friend or work-mate. Collectors and dealers can have special discounts for several copies for re-sale. As an example 10 copies for 75/- or $10.50. I hope (said he, crossing his fingers) to get Part IV completed before the Autumn 1966. In between, I hope to re-print Part I in response to many enquiries.

THANK YOU FOR BUYING THIS DISCOGRAPHY AND ON BEHALF OF MY CO-AUTHORS, FRED REYNOLDS, LES PHYTHIAN, BOB ROBERTS and GEOFF MILNE I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS ONE PROJECT THAT WILL BE COMPLETED ... AND SUCCESSIVE ISSUES WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER, FINALLY CULMINATING IN A BOUND VERSION OF ALL ISSUED PARTS. SO LOOK OUT FOR PART IV .... I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN TO BOOK YOUR COPY.

RALPH S.HARDING. "CROSBYANA", 6, CASTLEDINE ROAD, ANERLEY, LONDON, S.E.20. ENGLAND.

...oooOOOOOOOooo...

END NOTE

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DON'T FORGET YOUR BING DISCOGRAPHY - "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY"

Remember that Part I and Part II and the "V"disc Supplement are completely out of print (but there will be a re-print eventually)

Remember that copies of Part I are now changing hands at THREE times the published price ...!!!

Copies of Part II are rapidly becoming scarce.

The following note applies to you ...

YOU HAVE PAID FOR YOUR "ROAD TO BING CROSBY PART III" ✓

YOU ~~HAVE NOT PAID FOR YOUR COPY~~ YET .... SO SEND OFF THE SUM OF 9/6d POST FREE. (U.S. and Canada $1.50. POST FREE)

This copy of the December Post contains only a few of the illustrations contained in "THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY Part III" There are two full pages of rare records, shots from films and of course the striking caricature cover as shown on the front of this December Post.

Don't be out of it ... GET WITH IT ...!!!

Send your remittance to ....

RALPH S.HARDING
"CROSBYANA", 6, Castledine Road,
Anerley, LONDON, S.E.20.

NOTE: ALL subscriptions MUST be sent to me.

Don't take my word for it when I dare to say that this discog is the greatest BING discog ever published ... let 150 happy and delighted recipients of previous issues convince you.

AND FINALLY, A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A REAL SWINGING NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE .... AND I MEAN EVERYONE!

(May you all find scores of copies of "I Found You" and "Face The Music Medley" ...may your turn-table never stick, may your tweeter always tweet and may your bass response respond ..!!)

VERY SINCERELY, Ralph S. Harding

THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY (THE Crosby discography) PART III.

Dear Friends, Collectors, Bing afficiendos and Crosbyana Enthusiasts ....

Well, here it is at last ... the long awaited Part III. You all know the events leading up the the delay but to refresh your memories you will all remember that after holding on to the stencils, promising to print and publish on schedule and receiving a cash advance to help with printing costs, Frank Murphy refused to assist or help in any way and refused use of the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY'S duplicator and paper and ink unless we, the authors, completely retracted our criticism of his handling of the BCS and his utter rejection of the BCS and the large majority of its members and readers in favour of a new Club and magazine that apparently even confounds the Official Crosby Office of Hollywood.

Despite Mr.Murphy and his petty dictatorship, I and the rest of the team have completed Part III. Although somewhat delayed by a couple of months or so, we are VERY proud to present this latest work comprising some 112 pages. Tastefully bound in blue and gold, it presents the whole of Bing's output from 1st.Oct 43 until 27th. March 1951 in absolute detail, covering approx 420 recordings plus 2 full plate photos and 8 rare label photos. Stiff outer covers with tasteful front original caricature of BING make this magnificent book an absolute MUST for all collectors of Crosbyana and essential to all who profess the mildest interest in the great man. I have personally printed, put together, bound and mailed your copy to you. If, by any chance, a page is missing or badly printed, PLEASE RETURN YOUR COPY. I will replace FREE OF CHARGE. I have said this on previous occasions and no-one has found a badly bound copy (which goes to illustrate the great care taken in printing and binding the copies.)

It may be worth mentioning the trouble that I have taken to ensure firstly that you eventually got a copy and secondly that you got it without undue delay. I have worked on the printing of this discography EVERY day, page by page, since the whole project (like American juries) was "hung!" It involved begging and borrowing a variety of duplicators from friends and business aquaintances. It meant "running off" stencils very late at night or in the early hours of the morning when the machines were not in normal business use. It meant bribes and hand-outs, sweet-talk and sheer bloody insistence, (and in passing a lot of sweat and a certain amount of blood when the machine jammed with my fingers inside!) It almost meant marital disaster when my wife justifiably complained that I had neglected her for weeks on end. I am not writing my "funny ha ha" piece for the POST ... all I say is complete -ly true ... and until I realised that my neglect of my wife and family for an ideal was not only disrupting my normal family life but causing my wife a load of grief, I was oblivious to everything and anything outside of producing the discography. I assure you that this will not happen again ...!!!

But when I look at the finished product, I feel it was worth it ...well almost! I know that you will all appreciate this work, a real labour of love.

AND NOW, FRIENDS, I HAVE A SINCERE APPEAL TO MAKE ...

As usual I have printed the 150 limited copies for distribution. Due to lack of publicity in the POST, certainly no publicity from I.C.C. and lack of contact, only about 80 odd copies are sold (i.e paid for) This have all been delivered. You should have it now ... if you paid in advance. The whole project will be a complete financial dead loss unless YOU help me out. I'm not begging for funds or money ... but if you book a copy, please buy a second copy. As Charlie Tupper said, my copy of Part II has become dog-eared through constant use ... I could use a second copy to keep for best. As an example to us all collector and Bing enthusiast FRANK GRANT has bought SIX copies and chucked in a donation as an appreciation of our work. If each of you bought a second copy, my worries would be over. And as an incentive, anyone who buys FIVE copies can have a sixth copy for free. This is a pretty fair deal for dealers who can sell their copies and make a good profit. So help out lads, dig deep and buy just ONE more copy ... I'm not asking for financial help but if that's forthcoming I won't refuse it and believe me, it will be truly appreciated. AND IF YOU DON'T AGREE THAT THIS BOOK IS THE BEST NINE BOB'S WORTH YOU'VE EVER HAD ... keep it anyway and send what you like (as long as you appreciate it and it furthers the appreciation of a true artist, the like of which we will never see again in our lifetime)

This applies to you .... YOU HAVE PAID FOR YOUR COPY (but please buy another)

~~YOU HAVE NOT PAID FOR THIS COPY~~ so please send 9/6d or $1.50 (which includes postage etc.) to RALPH HARDING, "Crosbyana" 6 [illegible]

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY (BCS) AND THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE (ICC)

I have been in receipt of much mail and many phone calls from members of the BCS and other Bing enthusiasts and many old friends concerning the future of the BCS and advice has been sought on a number of matters. Great concern has been shown about how things are progressing in general. This news-sheet is an honest attempt to keep you all informed on current matters. You all received the December POST putting you all in the complete picture, followed by an appeal by myself at Christmas to Frank Murphy to keep the BCS going, offering him the extended hand of friendship and an honest appeal to him to let bygones be bygones and to utilise the talents of his contributors and Club Officers, not forgetting his own initiative to again take complete control of the BCS to produce an even greater Society and a far better club magazine, the CROSBY POST.

Regretfully I have to report that this lengthy appeal couched in the most friendly terms at a time when goodwill is usually extended to one and all, this appeal was completely ignored and no response whatsoever was forthcoming. So be it ...!!!

Notwithstanding the lack of co-operation, a Club Officer FRED REYNOLDS decided to have one last try to bring sanity to an impossible situation. FRED sent out a letter to all senior Club Members and Officers as follows ...

Dear Friends, The past few months have seen a rapid deterioration of good feeling between old friends and my purpose in sending this letter to BCS Officers and leading members is to find a solution to the apparent impasse we have reached. I would like to make it clear that I am not acting for or with anyone else and that this is strictly a personal endeavour. We have all received the circulars issued by Frank and Ralph during December and stripped of verbiage these pamphlets have some common ground. One of the main objections to Frank's original proposals was that two Crosby Clubs would be in opposition. This objection has now been met by his circular (dissolving the BCS) and I imagine that no-one is opposed to Ralph's view that Frank should "inject his fresh ideas". Basically then it appears that, for whatever reason, there is now agree-ment that thereshould be only one club (certainly this is what the majority of members prefer) although there is a difference of opinion as to how the Club shall be named. I now suggest therefore that as Officers and leading members of the Club we take a ballot on the questions set out below and that in each case the majority vote is accepted, and adopted. (Fred then continues to say that failure to agree will result in a mass exodus of veteran members, asks for replies from each of the 14 leading members he sent this letter to and closes as follows) I hope you will recognise this letter as a sincere and constructive attempt to re-establish, without any recrimination the friendly character of the Club. I need hardly tell you of the general loss of esteem in this and other countries that all the unpleasantness has brought, and it would help to restore some of our dignity if it can be shown that we can at least solve our own problems. (Here follows the points that Fred asked to be answered in the form of a fair ballot)

1. Which title do you prefer for the Club (a)International Crosby Circle (b) The British Crosby Society. 2. Do you agree that Frank Murphy and Jack Manners should continue as Joint Secretaries or, if Jack declines, that Frank should be Secretary? 3. Do you agree that a meeting should be arranged, at a venue to be decided, in Spring or early Summer to discuss main policies and procedures of the Club. 4. Would you be willing to attend this meeting? 5. Do you agree that outstanding matters and differences such as the procedure for the appointment of Club Officers, formal identification and ownership of Club Assets, annual accounts etc. be held over for amicable discussion at the meet-ing? 6. What month would best suit you for a meeting (April/May/June)?

Well now, even the hardest of critics would agree that Fred endeavoured to breach the gap, make the peace and try to bring some agreement so that one happy united Club would ensue. I have known Fred for several years ... he is essentially a fair man and a peaceful man, not given to bearing malice or prolonging arguments.

The next phase was a letter from Fred to the same leading members and Officers giving the net result of his peaceful endeavours ... It makes for interesting reading ...

Dear Friends, Thank you for replying to my letter of 24th.January. I was not wildly optimistic that I would be succesful but with the gun-smoke having cleared I thought we might see a way to a solution. Obviously success depended primarily upon Frank accepting the principle of a majority verdict and taking a fair chance on having his arbitary decisions ratitied by BCS Officers and leading members. Of the 14 people to whom I wrote, only 9 replied.

Jack Manners insists on a "BCS" and that Frank gives a full open apology to all. Ted Laker does not wish to have any further
"Frank at the helm" but ...

Bob Roberts, Ralph Hardimg, Frank Hatwell and John Maughan all preferred "BCS" rather than "ICC" and all agreed to Frank continuing as Secretary except that John stipulated that Jack Manners must be joint-Sec. as he would not agree to Frank alone. Derek Parkes was agreeable to eithertitle and to Frank as Secretary.

That makes 6 definite votes for "BCS" and 1 neutral. My own view (Fred's) is that the name of the Club is not of vital importance but I personally prefer "BCS".

Stan White wrote to say that he had quite a muddle in his mind about the whole business but out of respect for what I was trying to do had completed the ballot paper. He wondered why efforts had been made for months to get rid of Frank and Jack and then vote them back into office. It seemed to Stan that the main object of this was to obtain the use of the printing equipment. He also said he could see no good reason to stop two clubs running except that one club would be without the printing machine. I merely comment that no-one as far as I know, has tried to oust Jack and that the Club without the machine could hardly survive. His (Stan's) remark about obtaining the use of the equipment was not clearly worded and I wrote to him saying that if his suggestion was that this was my main object, I could assure him that I personally, had no use for the equipment and that the Discog's publication was being printed on another machine (Actually several other machines ... Ralph!) Stan White's ballot sheet showed that he preferred the title "BCS" and agreed to Frank as Secretary.

Any doubts I may have had about Stan White being muddled were entirely dispelled by a second letter from him which crossed in the post with my reply to his first letter. He said that he had received a copy of Frank's new magazine and asked me to cancel his previous letter. He also said that he is in support of Frank from now on. If, he says, the "BCS" does get under way under new management, he (Stan) would consider membership. "Once again" Stan says, "I find I have been dragged into what appears to be another attempt to overthrow Frank Murphy and the new Club but please, no-one else try to upset the apple-cart" ... Stan assures me that he has no ill-feelings over this. How he surmises from my letter of 24th January an attempt to "overthrow" Frank, I shall never know and as for upsetting the apple cart, I would remind Stan that Frank kicked the wheels from under it last August-September and thereby lost a lot of good, sound fruit. Stan has, I think, furnished conclusive proof of the muddle in his mind. He has been made an honorary member of the ICC.

Frank Murphy sent me two letters. The first one said he had arranged to discuss my letter with Don Woolland and that of the people to whom I had written, four of them (Bill Hall, Derek Parkes, Stan White and Don Wodland) were registered with the ICC. He had issued 76 copies of the first edition and had printed sufficient copies for further enfoldments. He was thinking along the lines of an advisory committee of interested senior people but would be in a better position to expound his feelings after he had the re-actions of the other people I had written to. Frank sent me a copy of the Editorial from his magazine in which he refers to his "decision to enfold the BCS into the ICC because I wasn't happy about the future of the BCS". He says that he is prepared to admit that some of the decisions he made at the time of enfoldment were badly put and he apologises for any inconvenience his actions may have caused. His hand is extended to all Crosby fans and he wants them to be a part of ICC (his new Club).

Frank's second letter was sent to me after his meeting with Don Woolland. He said that as the ICC is already established and the name established at considerable cost (Cards and magazine cover) the result of the ballot cannot alter this. He has no objection to Jack resuming as an Officer but not as a Joint-Secretary as "this would cause confusion re materials already printed". He would be prepared "to discuss what position Jack could fit in as". He would reply to questions 3,4,5 and 6 when he had the result of my circular letter and the views of the others.

Frank continues to hope for a full return of, and will always leave open the door to, former members of the BCS. If the disagreement continues, however, he is prepared to print any information for a separate BCS. "The printing machine etc purchased for the BCS during my Presidency" says Frank, "shall remain available through my offices for any magazine you or a team of Officers would wish to print". Finally he offers his full co-operation for a separate BCS and would alter the heading of his own new magazine from "ICC incorporating BCS" to "ICC associated with BCS".

My own comments on Frank's letters are that whilsts he is obviously prepared to make concessions which will not adversely affect his own venture, he fails to meet the one condition upon which I would insist, namely that of conforming to democratic procedure!

Stan White is impressed, presumably, that "Frank is well under way" (having no

regard to the fact that the ICC was launched by an unethical, not to say illegal, retention of property not belonging to Frank) and that the ICC has 76 members. Well seventy six may be a very large number of trombones but it is a pitiful few when one considers the status of the man to whom the Club is dedicated. Is there need for me to point out that the membership figure of the BCS has been more than halved? My attention was recently drawn to a paragraph reporting that a singer named Ray Orbison has 14,000 members in his British Fan Club. My daughter tells me that he has dark glasses and a light voice (she doesn't know which of these attractions is responsible for the membership). With respect to Mr.Orbison I would suggest that his talent doesn't exceed that of Bing yet the current outcome of Frank's actions has been a reduction of member ship from nearly 200 to 76. This trend was forecast to Frank several months ago!

Frank has proceeded throughout with a remarkable blend of naivety, discourtesy and plain cheek but not, I choose to think, with malice. He pursued his aims without prior reference to his colleagues and so designed matters that he transferred all BCS assets to the ICC. More remarkable to me, however, is that adult people have meekly allowed themselves to accept a situation so preposterous that Frank's choice of the peculiar term "enfoldment" is as apt as he has ever made - without, I am sure, his ever being aware of its subtle connotation. He is not in the least interested in democratic, majority opinion and is prepared to offer only those concessions which have no interference with his pre-arranged plans. He offers to the BCS, with an air of magnanimity, the privilege of using its own equipment whilst maintaining a tight personal grip on it for his own purposes. His thoughts about an advisory council are patronising and ludicrous when one considers that to date he has persistently rejected all proffered advice which hasn't suited his purpose. It is obvious that Frank wants to shuffle the deck, name the game, deal, lead and call trumps. Well, I don't mind a friendly game but not on those terms; admittedly there is no money at stake - only integrity, democracy and fair play!

Is there one among us who could suppress a smile when Frank apologises for "inconvenience"? He "inconveniently" wrecked the BCS, practically demolished the Crosby front in this country and alienated at least a hundred people. It is now clear that there is an overwhelming majority of BCS Officers, leading and ordinary members who disagree with Frank's actions and who favour a continuance of the BCS - a majority to be ignored because Frank doesn't agree. It is also clear that unless Frank radically changes his outlook, there can be no chance whatsoever of a reconciliation. His present proposals to permit use of BCS equipment and to form an advisory panel are entirely unacceptable. If, therefore, there is anyone among us able and willing to continue the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY I offer my full support to a properly constituted Club. Sincerely Yours,

Fred Reynolds.

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Well friends, the foregoing is FRED REYNOLDS brave but unsuccessful attempt to bring about a reconciliation and some form of order to a chaotic situation.

I, Ralph Harding, would like to mention a few relevant facts. Way back in 1947/49 when the British Crosby Society was first formed, I helped to Edit the Club's magazine then called "Crosbyana" ... when I left the Club, we had 100 members. At the time of the December POST 1965 we could boast about 200 members. Frank dissolved the BCS, nay wrecked it, formed the ICC and we can see that the only Bing Crosby club has 76 members which is a very sorry state of affairs. Similar Clubs such as the AL JOLSON CLUB and THE GLENN MILLER APPRECIATION SOCIETY, FRIENDS OF "FATS" and THE FRANK SINATRA SOCIETY CAN BOAST OF HEALTHY MEMBERSHIPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS! Yet after nearly twenty years of existence, we can show a reduction of nearly two-thirds in our membership. Frank Murphy, you must be very proud of your efforts ...!!!

Quite apart from over a hundred members who obviously disagree with the Murphy actions and policies, a majority of the former BCS Officers and leading members want no part of the new set-up. But there is obviously a great need for a properly constituted Club and such a Club would be welcomed by about a hundred "floating" members who obviously disagree with the ICC and yet greatly desire the continuance of the old and well-established BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY. I and my fellow officers are determined to completely boycot the ICC and may I humbly suggest that my readers take the same view. The Crosby Office in Hollywood and Larry Crosby have expressed concern about this new venture of Frank's and the ICC has received no official blessing. A letter from Larry Crosby to Frank Murphy made the specific point "THE ICC WOULD DISSIPATE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESENT CLUBS AND DISILLUSION THEIR LONG STANDING MEMBERS". So my advice to all former members of the BRITISH BING CROSBY SOCIETY is to boycot the ICC under the control of Frank Murphy, reclaim any subscriptions due to you and such action may encourage Frank Murphy to change his decisions.